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Inquiry call as franchise is halted

Rail sell-off undermined by fraud claim

BY JONATHAN TYNAN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans for a high-profile launch of rail privatisation were left in disarray yesterday as ministers faced demands for a criminal investigation into allegations that a new private operator was involved in ticket fraud.

The sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend service, known to commuters as "The Misery Line", was stopped by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, just ten hours before it was due to go ahead.

At 2am yesterday, the first private companies took control of scheduled passenger services since the railways were nationalised in 1948.

South West Trains from Waterloo to Hampshire and Dorset, and Great Western to South West London and Surrey, will run 1,000 trains a day.

It was due to take over its services at the same time but a routine audit by British Rail accountants on Thursday uncovered "a serious breach" of ticket revenue allocation rules involving up to £30,000 a month. The revenues due to London Transport, which shares several stations with LTS Rail, are believed to have been re-routed to the train operator's bank, although there has been no question of personal financial gain, Colin Andrews, the commercial director of the LTS management team, resigned on Friday.

Department of Transport officials were told immediately and Chris Kinchin-Smith, the managing director of LTS Rail, informed his five-man board on Friday that Mr Andrews had resigned.

Ministers spent Friday pondering whether the sale of the franchise should be stopped. On Saturday, a story appeared in a national newspaper and the BBC's South East television programme reported Mr Andrews's resignation. Sir George decided to ditch the sale at around 3pm on Saturday.

Brian Wilson, the shadow transport spokesman, said yesterday he had written to the Director of Public Prosecutions urging an immediate inquiry because the breach involved public money. "This is not an internal matter for the Government," he said.

Labour will seek to exploit the issue again on Wednesday when they have a Commons debate on rail privatisation.

Sir George played down the postponement of the franchise. "This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that in years to come

people will look back on today as a turning point – the point at which the renaissance of the railways began," he said.

"We would have liked to have got three out of three away today but we have got two out of three... I hope we can sort out the matter of LTS Rail quite soon. It is a good bid, they have promised new rolling stock and an improved service."

However, he could not disguise the damage inflicted on the Government by the affair. Ministers had hoped that it had weathered the worst of the political storm over its highly unpopular rail privatisation proposals.

Experts said the incident raised new concerns about the structure of the new-looking railways, in which dozens of private operators must co-operate over the allocation of ticket revenue. Twelve franchises, almost half those up for sale, have to share revenue with London Transport.

It was claimed that the first privatised train was in fact a bus when engineering works forced South West Trains to 11.25am Sunday service from Waterloo to Southampton Central to finish at Eastleigh, Hampshire. Passengers had to disembark and board a bus for the last five miles.

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH

Part two: shopping for therapies
PLUS: Check your scores in our cash-prize interactive Team Football game

WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL FASHION

Cool for kids
PLUS: Interface, our weekly computer supplement

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

Clockers, Spike Lee's best film yet?
PLUS: Health, the Books pages, and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY

POP

The BlueTones' first album and other records of the week
PLUS: The Valerie Grove Interview and the Education page

EASY MONEY

Free 20-page guide to Peps
PLUS: The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT A VOUCHER AND EAT OUT FOR £5

Heseltine attacked for bill advice

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE came under heavy criticism from his own party and from business last night for undermining government efforts to force companies to pay bills promptly.

Two days after the Government published legislation stopping companies and Whitehall departments from delaying payments, the Deputy Prime Minister advised businesses to delay paying bills if they were in financial difficulty.

Mr Heseltine yesterday repeated publicly the comments he had made in private last week, when he admitted that he had deliberately delayed paying bills when his com-

pany was in difficulty. "Everyone who has started a small business knows the strains. Many people face moments when they find it difficult to pay their bills. I certainly went through that experience and certainly in those circumstances the creditors waited for their money."

His comments, on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, were attacked as "absolutely appalling" by Sir Michael Latham, a former Tory MP who chaired a government-appointed commission into late payment.

The proposals of the Latham Commission, for an end to delaying tactics used in the construction industry, were included in a Bill published last Friday by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Mr Gummer bowed to pressure at

Tory MPs to ensure that government departments were forced to comply rather than be allowed immunity from prosecution.

Sir Michael said: "These comments set an absolutely appalling example, when the Government is trying to get payments speeded up. The result of businesses paying late is that someone else does not get the money and may go out of business."

"If a big company doesn't pay a smaller company, then the delayed payment is simply passed on, until the self-employed person at the end doesn't get paid at all. If companies or government can't afford to pay their bills, then they shouldn't order the work, and that's the message that should be put out."

Mr Heseltine amassed a fortune at

the multinational Haymarket publishing empire.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has demanded an apology from Mr Heseltine, and Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, said yesterday: "I know Mr Heseltine has been telling private audiences for two years that late payments are a good idea. The fact is that late payment is the curse of the small business."

When publishing the construction Bill on Friday, Mr Gummer underlined his determination to outlaw "notorious" delaying tactics in the construction industry. Explaining his decision to extend the rules to Whitehall, Mr Gummer said: "Government has set itself the target of becoming a best-practice client. It is

only right that we should take the lead in applying these reforms to the way we do business with the construction industry."

The Confederation of British Industry is surveying members to find out whether slow bill-payment is a particular problem and how long it takes for firms to be paid. It recently issued a code of conduct encouraging members to pay their bills promptly and has a list of members who have signed up to the code. "It is of concern when people do not pay on time. It is particularly difficult for small businesses. If they are not paid on time then they cannot pay their own bills," a CBI spokeswoman said. "Some people blame late payment for their firms going under but it can never be pinpointed as the only cause."

Shipbuilder aids peace process

The Irish Navy is hoping to contribute to the Northern Ireland peace process by having its latest vessel built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Protestant East Belfast. Under a plan being drawn up by senior naval officers in the Republic, the £25 million vessel would be built in Belfast and then fitted out across the border in Cork.

The navy, which has seven ships, needs the new vessel to patrol the Republic's fishing waters in the Irish Sea. Since the beginning of this year 40 Spanish fishing vessels have been allowed into the Sea, which has increased the navy's work by more than 30 per cent. The European Union is expected to provide the bulk of funding for the new vessel.

Millions 'wasted' on drugs bill

The Health Department is wasting hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year on prescription drugs, an investigation by *Health Watch* magazine has shown. Health officials refuse to admit how much is spent, but an Audit Commission report has suggested that total annual savings of up to £425 million could be brought about by better prescribing.

The Consumers' Association said that, without publication of the "D list", which details the annual drug bill, it was impossible to tell whether public money was being spent wisely. Officials say that disclosure of the list could jeopardise patient confidentiality and commercial interests.

Alternative medicine, page 11

Human kindness killing hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are being endangered by milk, bread and dog food left for them in gardens by animal lovers, according to researchers who say the animals are losing their teeth. Hedgehogs are also picking up parasitic worms and wounds from contact with domestic animals. In a survey of 12 hedgehogs electronically tagged on release after a winter stay at an animal hospital in Somerset, only four were still alive after nine weeks back in the wild.

Six share jackpot

Six tickets shared Saturday's lottery jackpot, each winning £1,625,476. The 38 tickets that matched five numbers plus the bonus won £28,970 each, and the 2,010 who matched five numbers got £933.

Winning numbers, page 20

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Sorry, sir, but the future is running a little late

By JOE JOSEPH

IT was to be an historic day: the first privately-run railway for nearly half a century.

"So, this must be a pretty exciting day for you," I whispered to a guard steering passengers towards the 10.32 to Exeter. He regarded me strangely. "Oh, yeah!" he hissed. "Thrilling!"

Maybe everyone at Waterloo looked so drawn because they are having as tough a time working out what is going on as the passengers. Inquiring on different occasions since Friday, I was told there was no 10.32 to Exeter, or that there was, but you had to go by bus from Basingstoke to Reading, or change trains at Woking, or change at Basingstoke and get a bus at Paddington. Even a double-check yesterday proved chaotic.

The area South West Trains serves — Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset — is known as the

"gin and jag belt". Now we know why: decoding the timetable sends travellers rushing for a drink and their cars. At last we were off. Shortly after Basingstoke at 11.52am the train supervisor was on the tannoy: "Due to engineering

work this train will terminate at Pinhoe, where a special bus service will take passengers to Exeter. There will be no buffet facilities. This is due to circumstances beyond my control."

The supervisor said: "The buffet staff aren't part of the

company. If they're short staff, they just don't come, see?" And then, hungrily, to Pinhoe, where we boarded a coach like the ones in 1950s movies. At Exeter, Great Western, the second railway that reverted to private hands yesterday, beckoned. The new owners plan to pay homage to Brunel — who built the line in 1833 — by adopting the original livery. Passengers would settle for punctuality. The 15.10 to Manchester didn't leave till 15.28. Our 15.27 to Paddington was a modest 11 minutes late. A guard responded to a passenger's query by saying:

"Perhaps the new management intends to run it the way it's always been run." And back to London by InterCity, stopping just twice before catching sight of Paddington, which helps restore faith in rail travel. Just remember to bring your own sandwiches.

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Winning numbers, page 20

Fears of IRA split over peace process

Continued from page 1
process by getting these fall party negotiations going as soon as possible."

Mr Mitchell's commitment to the peace process, but his comments highlighted his irritation with Britain for rejecting his report's finding that all party talks should begin before terrorist have disbanded.

Mr Mitchell's fears about a split in the IRA were quickly rejected by Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member. He said: "Since the beginning of the ceasefire, the IRA have proved themselves to be a very disciplined and cohesive organisation ... I don't believe that there is any danger of a split."

Even so, one of Sinn Fein's most senior members recently described the ceasefire as a "tactic" which would be ended if real negotiations did not begin. There are four possible scenarios under which IRA violence could resume:

Blair backtracks on Labour's BT deal

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has watered down plans to allow British Telecom to invest billions of pounds in the information superhighway within two years of a Labour government being formed.

The Labour leader has agreed that smaller cable companies should be protected from early competition from the telecommunications giant.

Mr Blair angered the cable industry when he announced at the Labour conference that the party had agreed a deal with BT giving the company access to the cable market in 1998 if Labour was in power. Some companies already installing cables said they could be put out of business.

Now Mr Blair has agreed that a Labour government would give companies seven years to establish themselves before BT could compete directly against them, meaning

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Attack on Ashdown exposes violent Yeovil street life

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE hate campaign against Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, which culminated in the petrol-bombing of his car last week, has drawn attention to the darker side of the apparently tranquil market town of Yeovil.

A small gang of petty criminals is blamed for the increasing violence in the town centre, with rising vandalism, arson and racist attacks. *Anyone daring to stand up to them becomes a target.*

The Somerset town is to install closed-circuit television cameras later this month, to try to tackle the problem. Many people say they are afraid to venture into the town centre after dark because it becomes the domain of drunken-looking young trouble.

Tony Fife, a Liberal Democrat councillor and former mayor of Yeovil, said: "The trouble is orchestrated by a gang of petty criminals. Unfortunately, they are giving the town a bad name nationally."

Mr Fife is also a shopkeeper who has suffered at the hands of thugs. "While I was mayor, I had my shop windows put through 12 times, simply because I represented authority. At night, part of the town centre is intimidating — you sense an atmosphere of violence."

"But we have to get this into perspective. I am very proud of Yeovil, and its problems are no worse than any other town of a similar size."

Yeovil, with a population of 45,000, is surrounded by at-

tractive villages such as Norton-sub-Hamdon where Mr Ashdown has his home, but the town centre is an incongruous mix of old buildings and ugly modern precincts.

The trouble is focused on a street known as "Takeaway Alley", a pedestrianised route leading from Yeovil's three nightclubs to a cluster of kebab restaurants and takeaways at the bottom end of town.

On the same street, a massage parlour, which was the front for a brothel, was closed by the Liberal Democrat council. The decision angered local criminals.



Paddy and his wife Jane yesterday

to come in, and changed the style of music. The clubs kick out between 2am and 4am, and all you hear is windows going. It is a hard job for the police and, without doubt, it is getting worse."

Yesterday the violence is drink-related and the nightly problems involve the young. Martin Webb, manager of a hotel in the town centre, said he was now trying to encourage an older clientele. "Anyone under 22 or 23 we don't really want. I have put a couple of lads on the doors, to try to encourage older people

CHRIS JAMES

to come in, and changed the style of music. The clubs kick out between 2am and 4am, and all you hear is windows going. It is a hard job for the police and, without doubt, it is getting worse."

Yesterday morning, at 2.15, two youths stood urinating in a shop doorway, seemingly oblivious to passers-by. Two police officers stood watch at the other end of the precinct, where a drunken youth was goading them by pushing a beefburger towards their faces. Threatened with arrest, he walked off, then lashed out with his foot at a taxi. The driver did not want action taken but some of his colleagues now carry small coshes to protect themselves.

Earlier, a group of skinheads had jostled a homeless beggar who had the temerity to ask for a few pence. One youth, swinging from a bottle of strong cider, tore away the newspapers the man was using for warmth and shouted at him: "Why don't you get a job?"

Down the road, a girl screamed abuse at another young woman: "Tell your mate she's going to get her head ripped off."

The two officers were called to a fight outside a nightclub, but by the time they arrived it was over. They followed a gang of young men from the club through town. "I'll be my pension that if we hadn't followed them, a window would have gone through," said one.



Elizabeth at 13: "a haunting loneliness; a reluctant but obsessive secrecy"

Elizabeth I portrait 'reveals a childhood of abuse'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PSYCHIATRIST who has studied the earliest known portrait of Elizabeth I believes it shows that she was abused as a child. Dr Elinor Kapp, a consultant child and adolescent mental health with a special interest in the history of art, says the expression of "frozen watchfulness" is reminiscent of the victims of deprived or abused childhoods.

The portrait, which hangs in the present Queen's collection at Windsor Castle, shows Elizabeth at 13 in the last year of the reign of her father, Henry VIII. Dr Kapp writes in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*: "Her eyes are candid but the set of her head on the neck and the folded lips show a wariness that gradually, as one studies the picture, becomes the most striking thing about it. There is a haunting loneliness about its reluctance but obsessive secrecy... a frozen watchfulness that recalls to me countless victims of deprived or abused childhoods."

Dr Kapp points out that when Elizabeth was three her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded; she was regarded as illegitimate, had three stepmothers and was the subject of constant scheming. If her childhood "were translated into modern terms, social workers would have been round at Henry's door constantly".

Police keep a cooler head in the fight against crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers in Greater Manchester are to become the first in England and Wales to switch from the traditional helmet to a modern cap.

A national police committee is looking at the future of the traditional uniform. The decision by Greater Manchester, which is one of the largest forces in the country, is likely to influence other forces.

Police are divided over the value of the traditional helmet, but its disappearance would be mourned as the loss of another distinctly British symbol, following the demise of red telephone boxes.

Scandinavian forces abandoned the helmet in the 1980s. English and Welsh forces had fiercely debated its end and until now decided to keep it. Next month the operational

officers in the 7,200-strong Manchester force will put aside their helmets and switch to a new-style of working uniform for the year 2000. The traditional serge tunic will be swapped for a flame-proof continental blouse, and every officer will wear lightweight bullet-proof vests.

The helmet will be kept for ceremonial purposes which are likely to be rare. The helmet, taken originally from a design for the Prussian army, was first issued to London police in 1863. It is still made from dyed rabbits' fur, cork and cotton.

Some officers, including Sir Peter Imbert, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation, have defended the

Day out in Inverness attracts the stars

THOUSANDS lined the streets of Inverness as celebrities gathered for the world premiere of the film *Loch Ness*. Its stars, Ted Danson, Joely Richardson and 11-year-old Kirsty Graham, were joined by Koo Stark, Bob Geldof and Anneka Rice on a march through the town on Saturday, led by a pipe band.

Two chartered jets carried more than 200 guests from London. Sniggers ran through the audience as the Provost, William Fraser, welcomed "Ted Dancing" to Inverness. Danson, who says he is descended from the Mac-Master clan of Argyll, smiled and the Provost repeated his mistake later.

The 83-year-old *La Scala* cinema is one of the smallest to stage a world premiere. Executives from PolyGram, which funded the film, are said to have been attracted by its elaborate decor.

Jersey sacks three honorary officers

BY BILL FROST

THREE long-serving members of Jersey's honorary police force have been sacked for alleged racial discrimination against a Brazilian clergyman who ministers to the island's Portuguese community.

The sackings came after they jointly tendered their resignations when the Rev Vivaldo Filho was made a constable's officer. Stephanie Nicolle, Jersey's acting Attorney-General, said the attitude displayed by the three showed that they were "unfit to carry out their duties".

Miss Nicolle told Gerry Sutherland, Alan Allis and Lilian Minchinton that they would not be allowed to leave the honorary police of their own volition but were being forced out for discriminating against a fellow officer "on the grounds of national and or racial origin". Mr Sutherland's wife Annette denied that her husband and his two colleagues were racist. "This was simply a clash of personali-

ties. Gerry is not a racist, he has helped lots of black and coloured people in his 17 years with the police. We are terribly upset at what has happened."

Senhor Filho, who has lived in Jersey for ten years and is a British citizen, has questioned the claim that a "clash of personalities" was at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious affair. He said he had never worked with the three and met them only once, when he was elected last December.

Yesterday Senhor Filho refused to comment on the affair, but one of his supporters warmly welcomed the sackings. Leonard Springate said: "Thank God they have been given their marching orders. This has been a thoroughly disgusting business.

The Rev Vivaldo is a wonderful man who gives his all to the community. He is a real Christian, which is more than

can be said for some on this island who have now got their just deserts."

Chill brings record payout

A FRESH blast of Arctic weather was heading for Britain yesterday, just as it was announced that cold weather payments by the Department of Social Security have already doubled the previous record.

So far this winter, £47 million has been paid to vulnerable groups. The previous highest payout was £23 million in the winter of 1991-92.

More than 5.6 million individual payments have been made, with people in some areas receiving the £8.50 weekly award more than once. Eligible households in the Aviemore and Braemar

areas of Scotland have received a total of £42.50 for five separate cold snaps. The payments are triggered when the average temperature is forecast or recorded at zero celsius or below for seven consecutive days, and is available from November 1 until March 31 to people on income support including pensioners, the disabled, and families with children under five.

Roger Evans, a junior Social Security Minister, said: "The payout shows the scheme is working well. The payments are reaching those people who need the help most. Payments are now

made automatically. There is no longer any requirement to put in a separate claim. Also, when payments are made as a result of a forecast or the weather is not as cold as the forecast predicts, we do not recoup the money."

Snow was forecast to move in from the west this morning, reaching a depth of several inches, and hitting London and the South East by this evening. The Meteorological Office said temperatures in the next couple of days would rarely rise above freezing.

America's freeze, page 10
Forecast, page 20

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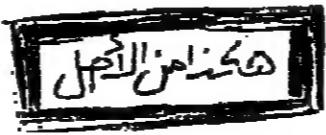
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Dismayed
Tories to
meet over
MP's fate

By ALICE THOMSON

THE political fate of David Ashby, the Tory MP who lost a libel action in December over a report that branded him a homosexual, liar and hypocrite, will be decided at a special meeting of his local Tory party next month.

He held long discussions yesterday with senior local party members who did not hide their dismay at his behaviour. The constituency party of North-West Leicestershire, which Mr Ashby won with a majority of 979, is concerned about his £500,000 legal bill and by the sleaze allegations. They were embarrassed by members of the Ashby family giving vitriolic testimony against each other.

Mr Ashby, 55, met the chairman, vice-chairman and four members of the association at his home in Ravenstone for more than three hours. They made clear that they did not want a by-election which they would almost certainly lose but would like fresh blood to fight Labour at the next general election.

Golfing tycoon stripped of title bans club

By IAN MURRAY

A GOLF club is being evicted from a course owned by a tycoon who was stripped of the world's leading pro-am golf title last week for alleged cheating.

Members of the Welcombe Golf Club have been told that they will not be able to renew their subscriptions, which expire at the end of this month. The course is in a 157-acre park around the Welcombe Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon, bought for an estimated £17 million six years ago by Masashi Yamada, a Japanese property magnate.

Tom Wood, the club chairman, said: "We are being tipped out on to the street with nowhere to go and have been given no reason for it whatsoever. Our members are shattered and I have seen one senior member in tears."

"We have a great community spirit and want to stay together but the clubs round here are full with long waiting lists and none could take in all our 407 members." The club

has used the course since 1982, paying more than £250,000 a year for facilities including a clubhouse.

There was no written contract but Mr Wood, 70, said: "We had a gentleman's agreement to use the course and nobody ever complained about anything we did. It is a fine course and we are proud of it."

The course has been highly regarded since it was upgraded to 18 holes in 1978 and last year the club hosted the Midland PGA championship.

Last week Mr Wood was called in by John Moore, the hotel's general manager, and told that members would not be allowed to use the course after February 29. They pay annual fees of £505 of which £475 is passed on to the hotel.

A spokesman at the hotel said last night that the course was being closed for refurbishment. It was not known how long this would take or whether the club members would be allowed back after-



Tom Wood, right, on the course yesterday with the club secretary, Gary Cooper

wards, he said. Hotel guests would continue to be allowed to play the course.

Mr Yamada, 72, is a keen golfer who last year partnered Bruce Vaughan, a little known American professional, in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am championship, which was founded by Bing Crosby in 1964. The

pair won the title ahead of some of the best-known names in golf thanks largely to a succession of fine rounds by Mr Yamada, who was playing off a handicap of 15.

The organisers later discovered that Mr Yamada's true handicap was ten strokes better than the one he had used to

help him to the title. His incorrect handicap had been issued by a club he owns in Japan. The organising committee, chaired by Clint Eastwood, decided on the evidence to strip the title from Mr Yamada.

Woosnam wins, page 22

MPs unite to back Bill outlawing ageism in job adverts

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will come under pressure this week to outlaw age discrimination in job advertisements after a study by Age Concern found that nearly 50 per cent bar people over 40.

More than 200 MPs of all parties are supporting a backbench Bill this Friday to help to fight ageism, which hinders millions of older people seeking work or a change of job. According to Age Concern, only 52 per cent of men aged 60 to 64 are economically active compared with nearly 90 per cent in 1951.

In one Sunday newspaper last week over 25 per cent of job adverts included phrases such as "You are probably under 40" or "Those over 50 need not apply". Most recruitment agencies are also backing the Bill. They conducted their own survey of 250 personnel directors, which showed 86 per cent regarded the under-55s as their ideal recruits for jobs ranging from cleaners to senior managers.

The Bill, introduced by David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, would outlaw blatant age bars in job advertisements. Mr Winnick says that similar legislation has already successfully combat sexism, racism and discrimination against the disabled.

The Labour front bench has also pledged to introduce anti-age discrimination laws if it comes to power. Age discrimination is illegal in America, Australia and parts of Europe but the Government says it prefers a voluntary code of practice, claiming that legislation in America is unenforceable. The Confederation of British Industry says older workers cost more and are harder to train.

Philip Walker, who runs the Campaign against Age Discrimination in Employment, tried to commit suicide when he lost his directorship of an advertising company. He has compiled 5,000 case histories of age discrimination. "We have a range of people who have been discriminated against from security officers in supermarkets to chief executives," he said.

Lords warn of fishing job losses

A House of Lords select committee has given a warning that overfishing could lead to huge job losses and the demise of fishing communities. The Earl of Selborne, chairman of the Lords Science and Technology Committee, said that the "stupid" quota system encouraged overfishing and that the Government had not given the problem serious attention until recently. "We are depicting our stocks, for a failure of political will," he said.

Police raid club

Police raided a nightclub near Stockton-on-Tees, arresting 25 people for suspected drug offences. More than 200 officers from the Cleveland and Northumbria forces were involved, searching the Coliseum club with dogs while a helicopter monitored the scene.

Hi-tech puree

Puree from genetically modified tomatoes goes on sale at Sainsbury's and Waitrose today. Scientists have taken one of the "rotting" genes out of the tomato to allow longer-lasting, firmer-textured fruit to be produced. The modified tomato itself is not for sale.

Ban on couples

The Royal Navy plans to enforce its ruling against married couples serving together by ordering them to speak up if they are posted to the same ship. Even if two ratings marry while serving together, one will normally be moved elsewhere.

Train surfers

Two boys who were caught "train surfing" — riding on top of fast-moving rail carriages — may be prosecuted in what is thought to be the first case of its kind, police said yesterday. The boys, aged 12 and 14, were caught in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Street wise

Viewers of Coronation Street are using the Internet to alert each other to future twists in the plot. In the past four months, 28,000 people have logged on to the unofficial World Wide Web site devoted to news and gossip on the 35-year-old soap opera.

New ballistic test 'will clear Clegg'

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Lance Corporal Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was jailed for the murder of a joyrider in West Belfast, said yesterday that they had new evidence which they hoped would quash his conviction.

Simon McKay, Clegg's legal adviser, said that ballistics tests carried out on fragments of bullets used in the shooting showed that the paratrooper did not fire an illegal shot.

Clegg, 27, was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of Karen Reilly, who died when he and colleagues opened fire on a joyrider's car after it drove through a checkpoint in 1990. The paratrooper, who fired four shots at the car, was convicted of murder because Mr Justice Campbell ruled at Belfast Crown Court that he fired the fourth shot illegally.



Lee Clegg's supporters want conviction quashed

at the back of the car after the perceived threat had passed. Clegg was released on licence last July.

Mr McKay said the report would show that a bullet previously not linked to any soldier was Clegg's fourth shot, fired at the car's front wheel-arch.

Rethink on RAF swaps after crash

THE Royal Air Force is reviewing its exchange posting scheme after a crash last month involving a Tornado flown by an Italian pilot.

An RAF Tornado GR1 from 14 Squadron at Brüggen in Germany crashed into a wood southwest of Munster. The pilot, an Italian Air Force officer, and the RAF navigator both ejected safely.

The scheme is under scrutiny following this crash, a senior officer said. "There have been a number of incidents which confirm our view that Italian pilots can be too temperamental when cool heads are required."

The £20 million Tornado suffered a minor instrument failure, but not at a critical moment. Concern was expressed as to why the Italian ordered immediate ejection.

The scheme involves crew from the United States and other European air forces. "The Yanks are by far the nearest to our standards but the Italians leave much to be desired," the officer said.

Gun police sue over ear damage

MORE than 100 police officers are preparing compensation claims totalling millions of pounds, alleging that they suffered hearing damage during firearms training.

Solicitors backed by the Police Federation are preparing files on the cases after a £150,000 settlement involving a former Leicestershire inspector last week.

Barry Poole, 55, was awarded the money in an out-of-court award on Wednesday. Mr Poole, of Ashby de la Zouch, was discharged from the force in 1989 because of his increasing deafness. He suffers tinnitus and cannot hear conversational speech.

The High Court was told that he was exposed to dangerous noise levels before ear protectors were introduced in 1972. The Chief Constable of Leicestershire and the county council denied liability.

Leicestershire could face further claims, as could the West Midlands, Northampton, Nottingham, West Mercia and Staffordshire.

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Former minister voices concerns

Tory critics add to attack on Howard sentencing reform

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD'S plans for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders were attacked yesterday by one of his former prison ministers. Sir Peter Lloyd joined critics including Lord Hailsham of St Mylehoun, a former Lord Chancellor, and members of the judiciary.

The criticism came after the Home Secretary made a robust defence of his plans at what he described as a "very vigorous" private meeting with judges in Northampton on Saturday. Sir Peter, Conservative MP for Parcham, said Mr Howard's plan, to be unveiled in a White Paper in the late spring, was cumbersome and unconvincing.

"I don't think he has convinced the judiciary or myself yet that his approach with this very real point is the right one," he said. "I don't think we're talking about very large numbers and I don't think we need to go to something cumbersome like a life sentence for the second offence."

"I'm not convinced there is a need for a mandatory, automatic life sentence for the second offence."

Sir Peter, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, said a judicial mechanism was needed, by which prisoners who were still violent could remain in jail until they were no longer seen as a risk to society.

As officials continue to prepare for the White Paper, Lord Hailsham attacked the Home Office's tendency to impose sentencing policy on the judi-

cacy. He said on GMTV: "One shouldn't, if one is Home Secretary, seek to impose one's views either on colleagues or on the legislature. This business about mandatory sentences must be held in very grave suspicion."

Under the proposals, minimum sentences will be imposed on persistent burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and other violent offenders. Mr Howard signalled a substantial reduction in the sentences imposed by courts when he met about 30 judges at the private meeting of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council on Saturday.

He said he would expect judges to take account of his plan for "honesty" in sentencing, in which the sentence imposed by the court would be served in full. "I want the offender standing in the dock to know the full weight of the sentence. I do not want him saying to himself, 'I know he said three years, but it only means 18 months.'

This would need guidance from the Lord Chief Justice pointing out that prisoners would now serve their full jail terms, he said. "My main concern is to say to the man in the dock, 'What you hear is what you serve'."

He rejected a warning from Lord Justice Rose, the Court of Appeal judge chairing the meeting, that rapists would commit murder if they knew they were going to be jailed for life anyway. Taken to its logical conclusion, this line of argument suggests that there

is no need for minimum sentences for drug dealers and persistent burglars provoked the most criticism at the meeting. Mr Howard did not spell out the number of previous convictions which will trigger a minimum sentence or the length of the jail term.

He attempted to calm anger by telling the meeting that he had always intended to provide for exceptions.

Paul Cavadias, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, an alliance of 30 groups in the penal system, doubted if judges would reduce sentence lengths and lay themselves often to claims of "going soft".

Traditional family gangs still exist in cities such as London, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne, but their influence is diminishing. Police found there were no modern versions of the Krays or the Richardsons who carved up much of London in the 1960s, and hierarchical gangs such as the Thompsons, who ran crime in Glasgow over several generations, were declining.

Colin Phillips, the Assistant Chief Constable heading CID in Greater Manchester and the leader of the research team, said: "The criminals network as assiduously as businessmen. We are not saying people don't follow their fathers into crime, but now they are not family hierarchies. Drugs are the currency of the criminals."

"In the 1950s and 60s it was vice, prostitution and pornography. In the 1980s it was car crime, then fraud. Now it is drugs."

Drug investigations take up 40 per cent of detective work in some forces. According to detectives, the typical gang leader is in his late 20s or 30s. "They are leaders because, when push comes to shove, they will walk into a pub and shoot someone," a London officer said. "If someone has them over, they take revenge. If you have money off them, there will be retribution."

The gang leaders have always left school early and have convictions that give them status with other criminals, who turn to them for help. Sometimes they are the sons of minor criminals.

The gangs usually number 15 or 20 core members who have grown up together. Vio-



Yesterday's villains: from left, the gang bosses Charles Richardson, Jack "Spot" Comer and his rival Billy Hill

Crime families are pushed out by new breed of drug gangster

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW type of sophisticated young gangster is taking over Britain's underworld and ousting the traditional criminal families.

Research compiled for chief constables identified 300 leading criminals who stay in the background as "fixers" and organisers, hiding behind legitimate businesses and arranging the links for big drug consignments or distributing expensive stolen cars.

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lence between the gangs is far less than expected. It will be used to defend territory in "turf wars", but there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete.

Times have changed since the early part of this century when gangs grew among the new immigrant communities in London, Liverpool and Glasgow. Razor gangs ran bookmaking on racecourses across the country, leading to fearsome battles between rivals.

In 1921 the Birmingham and Leeds mobs turned on the "Italians", a gang led by the Sabin family, on the last day of the Derby meeting. There was a brief battle after which 23 people were convicted.

In the postwar era, gangs turned to vice, clubs and gambling, with the likes of Billy Hill and Jack "Spot" Comer fighting for control of underworld business. The Krays and Charles Richardson also based their empires on clubs, fraud and intimidation.

The Krays adopted a high profile, cultivating society contacts and trying without a great deal of success to move into the West End of London. After police broke the gangs of the 1960s, their successors shunned publicity.

As a more liberal atmosphere allowed legal competitors into the vice industry, organised criminals turned first to armed robbery and then to drugs, building contacts in Spain, South America and North Africa.

They move quickly with drug trends. In the 1990s they have invested in raves and the supply of synthetic drugs from the Continent. Like the razor gangs of the 1920s they still protect their territory, but now they use sawn-off shotguns and hired hitmen.

Networking between gangs and operations across police boundaries present a greatest problems for a law-enforcement system based on regional forces, the report compiled for the chief constable says. Only 21 of the 55 forces have computer systems which allow them to carry out

simple analysis to uncover the size of cross-border crime.

Chief constables are already in debate with the Home Office about the creation of a national CID unit. The National Criminal Intelligence Service is also expected to widen its work at the top end of the criminal scale.

Police are also being urged to build detailed and constantly updated assessments on organised crime, modelled on those used against the IRA. The assessments would be part of an intelligence package that would include long-term forecasts of how social and economic trends might influence crime.

Police are already talking about creating "intelligence cells" similar to those used in the armed services to update senior officers and detectives.

The research ordered by the chief constables shows that forces could work together more to combat gangs and criminals who travel widely to commit crime. In one force 30 per cent of burglaries were committed by criminals from other areas.

Labour may 'claw back' child benefit from rich

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR is considering taxing child benefits for the richest families in an attempt to curb rising welfare costs.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "I want to look at the 'Duchess of Westminster' problem, where people who are right up at the top end of the income scale can still walk down the road and into a post office and draw child benefit."

He added: "We are looking at options to see if right up at the top end of the scale there might be some way to claw back some of the money that goes to people who actually don't need it."

Mr Smith, who recently visited Singapore to study its system of social security, is determined that Labour would tackle the problem of the £90 billion-a-year benefits bill. He emphasised that "the broad mass of people" did rely on child benefit. "I'm absolutely committed to the universal



Smith: child benefit to remain universal

payment of child benefit," he said. "It's an essential part of child support in this country and I want to see it continue as universal payment."

In an interview on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, Mr Smith said that Labour was examining a "benefit-to-work" strategy which would give people "a hand up" rather than just a hand-out. "If we can get people off unemployment, out of dependency, back into work, with opportunities, instead of having obstacles put in their way, then I think we can begin to see some really radical changes in the nature of the system."

But he cast doubt on Labour adopting a Singapore-style pension scheme, where people have to put 20 per cent of their income into compulsory savings schemes. Mr Smith said that instead of such a scheme, "which no one in Britain could afford", he wanted to create a new, funded, secure pension scheme for people who did not have decent occupational or personal pensions.

Council tells staff to drop 14-week leave or be sacked

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

STAFF employed by a Labour council will receive redundancy notices today with a warning that they can have their jobs back only if they agree to new contracts, cutting their annual holidays by up to nine weeks.

Long-serving staff at Camden are entitled to up to 14 weeks' paid leave. Another London Labour council is to end a no-redundancy policy.

Camden's action comes after two years of fruitless attempts to negotiate new contracts cutting leave for 3,200 of its 6,000 town hall staff. They have been entitled to 50 days a year dependency leave to look after sick, close relatives. Given a five-day working week, this can amount to ten weeks a year in

addition to the four-week allowance for which every staff member qualifies.

Since 1993 the council has been prepared to offer a contract granting only five days leave a year on dependency grounds, but staff employed before then still benefit from the old terms.

The new contract also halves the amount of time off allowed to staff members working flexitime from two days to one day each four weeks. New recruits will qualify for the council's 40-week maternity leave only after they have been employed for a year.

Among those who will receive a redundancy notice are many of the 33 staff of the council's homeless unit, who

Primitives who failed to have last word

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE NEANDERTHAL man was an evolutionary dead-end, lacking abstract thought or the ability to categorise, a British expert believes.

The rise and fall of Neandertal man has long been a puzzle because fossils show that his brain was at least as large as those of modern humans. He was the product of two million years of evolution but disappeared, leaving hardly a trace. He produced no ornaments, no cave paintings and had no network of kinship or religion.

Dr Paul Mellars, Reader in Archaeology at Cambridge University, says in a new book that the reason lies in language. The ability to describe things accurately enables categories to be created: "a name goes with a mental image".

The forms of Neandertal tools vary continuously, while the tools of *Homo sapiens* are much more clearly divided into categories.

"One fascinating possibility is that modern humans had fully complex language, and Neandertals had only a proto-language. Modern humans were much better at planning, which requires storing and passing on information. You can't do that without language."

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Protesters dig deep to thwart bypass

By ADRIAN LEE

THE battle lines were drawn this weekend for the final assault on tree dwellers whose illegal homes block the route of the Newbury bypass.

As protesters replenished food and water in 60 tree houses, the Under Sheriff of Berkshire, Nick Blandy, whose ancestors were responsible for hanging criminals in the county, was drawing up his siege plans for four camps.

Legal action last week cleared the way for Mr Blandy and his bailiffs, some skilled mountaineers, to move the battle from the ground to the trees. Hydraulic cherry pickers will be used to pull activists from the elaborate rope walkways which link the tree houses in an operation that Mr Blandy, a veteran of protests at the Greenham Common air base, predicted could last several weeks.

There are now thought to be 20 tree camps in addition to a 150ft tunnel in which the campaigners have said they will seek refuge when the evictions start. After four weeks of protest there have been 300 arrests and Mr Blandy, 47, whose relatives have held the post of Under Sheriff since it was created in 1837, said: "I hope none of the protesters falls out of a tree but if they do it will be because they have placed themselves in danger."

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Dancing in the aisles as rector wins fight to sell pews

BY ADRIAN LEE

A VILLAGE rector has won approval to remove historic oak pews from his church to give his growing "charismatic" congregation more space to clap and dance.

Diocesan officials have given their blessing for the 150-year-old pews at the picturesque St Nicholas's Church at Ashill, near Watton, Norfolk, to be replaced with modern chairs. The issue split the village and the rector, the Rev Martin Down, argued that the 14th-century church was a living place of worship not an antiques shop. He said yesterday: "I am surprised by all the fuss. It is the sort of thing that only happens in small villages."

The Norwich diocese received 80 letters about the 16 pews in the south aisle. An advisory committee that visited the church said it had "no objection in principle" to the pews' removal. The congregation has grown from about 25 to more than 90 since Mr Down arrived but his charismatic services have upset some traditionalists.

The ornate pews are now likely to be sold to a crematorium or to another church for a four-figure sum to help to meet refurbishment costs. Mr Down, 55, added: "The committee said it would like to see them in a place of worship rather than a pub. There was never any question of them being destroyed."

If the diocesan chancellor ratifies the approval, opponents still plan an appeal to a church court. The rector has been supported by his church council, but opposed by the parish council. Richard Leighton, its chairman, said: "I would be horrified if the pews were sold. I hope they will be put in storage. These charismatic worshippers may be gone in five years."

State school agrees separate RE for Muslim children

BY PETER FOSTER

A PRIMARY school in Birmingham is to become the first state school in Britain to make its own arrangements for Muslim religious education. The move, which departs from the 1988 Education Act's demand for a daily act of collective worship "of a broadly Christian character", follows the withdrawal of 1,500 Muslim children from religious education lessons in West Yorkshire last month.

Muslim parents at Birchfield Primary in Aston, Birmingham, where 70 per cent of pupils are Muslims, say that multi-faith religious education has failed their community's children.

Mohamed Mukadam, a parent governor at the school, said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme yesterday: "When you understand the multi-faith approach you realise that it is actually designed to destroy all faiths because it

teaches that all faiths are equal.

"If you ask a child to choose a religion he will say, 'well, if they are all equal I can become a Sikh tomorrow, a Buddhist on Wednesday, a Christian on Sunday.' The danger is that in the end he becomes nothing."

Mr Mukadam also paid tribute to the school's headmaster, a committed Christian, for respecting the rights of Muslim parents. The new syllabus has been agreed by all the concerned parties including Birmingham City Council and the Schools Advisory Council on Religious Education which is responsible for RE curriculums on a local level.

A right-wing education pressure group has also backed the Muslim community's push for separate religious education. Fred Nayor, secretary of the Parental Alliance for Choice in Education said that the multi-faith ethos of the 1988 act had caused confusion and weakened individual religious commitment.

He said: "What we should be respecting is the right of other people to have their own faith", adding that the multi-faith approach was "an attack

on parental rights, and that's why I am so sympathetic to the Muslims for defining this, giving a lead, which I hope Christians will take."

But the Professional Council for Religious Education said that parents were misunderstanding the purpose of RE lessons. Lar Blaylock, the council's executive officer,

said: "School RE is educational. It's not about indoctrination or conversion – it doesn't have that as an aim and it doesn't happen as a result of school RE."

I don't think this kind of separate development is really in the interests of the children. In the primary age group the learning is from one or two different religions, a reasonable way forward."

Yesterday Mr Mukadam met the Muslim parents who withdrew their children from schools in West Yorkshire last month. He argued against withdrawing children in favour of the system adopted in Birmingham of actively teaching Islam to Muslim children.

Convents resort to classified ads

A BIG drop in the number of British nuns has forced many religious orders to abandon their rejection of the material world and advertise for new recruits. Catholic convents are closing, one by one as an ageing population of nuns dies and young women, rejecting a life of sacrifice, fail to come forward.

The classified section of the *Catholic Herald* is full of small ads from orders exhorting volunteers to devote themselves to a spiritual way of life. A spokesman for the newspaper said: "Convents and monasteries have for a long time used the classified section to attract new recruits, but there have been more and more of late, often emphasising a New Age rejection of

mainstream society. Most are desperate to attract younger women before their order dies out altogether. They must get some response because they keep advertising and the ads are on the increase."

Since 1985, more than 2,500 sisters have been lost from

Britain's 200 orders and, of the 8,000 remaining, almost half are more than 70 years old. Nuns between 30 and 50 years old account for only 10 per cent of the total, according to figures from the Catholic Media Office. Kieran Conry, of the Media Office, said:

"Some orders are doing better than others, but the ones that are doing worst are the enclosed orders and those founded for specific jobs like teaching and nursing."

When they were founded centuries ago, there was no welfare state and they provided a service – they helped the poorest members of the community. Now there is free schooling for all and the National Health Service.

Nuns have been supplanted by the State."

One of the most popular Catholic girls' schools in the country, St Mary's, Asot, was handed over to local authority control last year when the number of pupils and nuns fell to an unsustainable level. With nuns adopting mass media advertising methods, one Sister Lavinia Burn, who works for the National Religious Vocation Centre, has chosen a high-tech approach. She advertises its advisory and information services for potential nuns and priests on the Internet under the name Cyber-Nun.

Roddick puts ethics first at green college

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANITA RODDICK, the founder of The Body Shop, is to launch a "green college" in Bath and spent several years in the classroom before embarking on her business career. She now earns £122,000 as chief executive of Body Shop International.

Courses will teach regard for human rights, spirituality in business life and "socially responsible" investment and finance". Ms Roddick said: "Business education must contain the language and notion of social justice, human rights, community economics and the development of the human spirit."

Dr David Wheeler, head of ethical audit at The Body Shop and an authority on waste reduction and the reuse of materials, is helping to set up courses. Gill Coleman, who has spent four years as director of studies for the MBA in international business at Bristol University, is the academy's course director.

Gay priests campaign played down by Church

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than 300 Anglican church leaders worldwide, including a number of Church of England bishops, are backing a call for a debate into the ordination of practising homosexuals as priests. They are signatories of an advertisement that will appear in religious newspapers on Friday to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Yesterday the Church of England played down the significance of the advertisement, saying a call for debate should not be interpreted as support for one side of the argument. The Rev Eric Sheog, the Church's spokesman, said: "The advert does not change anything."

The Rev Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, which campaigns for homosexuals to be ordained, declined yesterday to say which Church of England bishops had signed the advertisement. It is thought not specifically to call for the ban on practising homosexual clergy to be lifted. Mr Kirker said: "We are committed to trying to make the Church do what it should do instinctively – to make clear that all people are welcome."

He also confirmed that the movement would be announcing this week that it had been given permission to hold a service to celebrate its 20 years, at Southwark Cathedral later this year.

Mr Kirker said thousands of gay and lesbian members of the clergy were not celibate, because they were in a stable relationship or wanted to be in such a relationship. "Homosexual clergy are victimised by being made to pretend they are not in a relationship. That's the price they have to pay if they wish to receive support from their employers."

Mr Sheog said the House of Bishops had called for a debate on the issue in 1991 while making clear that active homosexual practice among the clergy was unacceptable. "That debate has been going on since then, so all these posters and the clergy who have signed are saying is that they want to encourage debate."

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Mohamed Mukadam, parent governor, says today's religious education destroys faith

RUSSELL BACH

BY A STAFF REPORTER

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Official history lifts lid on undercover missions that prepared the ground for D-Day

How secret fishing fleet carried spies to occupied France

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE full story of how clandestine flotillas were used to ferry secret agents in and out of France and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War has been disclosed after an unprecedented decision to open the archives of the Secret Intelligence Service and the Special Operations Executive.

Sir Brooks Richards, an official historian who served with the SOE in the war and was security co-ordinator in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, was allowed to see the files of "O" section of the SIS, which was involved in the covert operations that helped to provide intelligence during the years leading up to the D-Day landings.

The fall of France in June 1940 had left the coastline of Western Europe in hostile hands. It was as great a strategic threat to Britain as any since the Spanish Armada. The secret services were



Richards: given unique access to secret files

under enormous pressure to gather intelligence, particularly on any attempt by the Germans to mount an invasion. The SIS man charged with establishing links with agents in occupied France was Commander Frank Slocum, known as "O".

Much has been written about the covert air opera-

tions, but Sir Brooks says that his book, *Secret Flotillas*, is the first to tell of the naval crews who carried agents to France. He had unique access to closed official intelligence files for the book, which is published by HMSO in association with the Cabinet Office.

In 1940, the SIS had no available assets in France because of a gentleman's agreement with the French *Service de Renseignements* not to conduct espionage. Slocum had to start from scratch, recruiting, training and briefing agents. The SIS sought help from intelligence officers working with the Vichy Government and also from the intelligence service of the exiled Polish Government, whose officers ran daring operations for SIS from Gibraltar to Morocco.

Slocum set up two sections to obtain intelligence in France, one under Commander Wilfred Dunderdale, who had been head of the SIS's Paris station until the fall of France, and Commander Kenneth Cohen. Between June and October 1940 agents were landed in The Netherlands, Belgium and the north coast of France from whatever surface craft were available. The first French operation recorded by Slocum successfully landed an agent near Brest on the night of June 20, 1940.

Dunderdale's section ran operations in Brittany using Breton fishing vessels. His operational base was in Mylor Creek, near Falmouth, Cornwall. The crews were Free French naval volunteers on secondment to the SIS.

Sir Brooks, who at one point ran guns to Corsica by submarine, said that one remarkable agent was a Frenchman called Daniel Lomenech, who was only 19 when first recruited. He had escaped from France and volunteered to go back as an SIS agent.

Early in November 1940 he landed on a beach in Brittany with another agent from a trawler. It returned a month later but developed engine trouble and, while it was being repaired at a French port, the four crew went off drinking. When they returned, the boat had blown away.

Sir Brooks said: "It was an awkward situation, four sailors without a boat... and two spuds stranded with their intelligence becoming stale." Lomenech eventually returned in another boat.

The missing boat was re-

ported to the French authori-



The Ar-Morscou, left, and L'Angèle-Rouge ran missions to Brittany from their base near Falmouth. The flotillas were set up by Commander Frank Slocum, centre left, and crewed largely by Free French volunteers such as Daniel Lomenech, who was recruited at the age of 19

ties and was recovered, but German military customs learnt of it and found British provisions on board. Berlin was informed that this was the first known case of a fishing boat being used to convey people from England.

In 1942 Slocum got permission for a new 55ft boat to be built with 500-horsepower engines, giving a speed of up to 20 knots. It was named L'Angèle-Rouge, after Slocum's auburn-haired secretary, Miss Sykes-Wright.

Another was the salvaged Ar-Morscou, which Lomenech had found half-submerged in Newlyn harbour.

The "strikingly handsome" Lomenech commanded the L'Angèle-Rouge on its first three operations, before transferring to submarines. He was awarded the DSO in October 1942.

Later, when L'Angèle-Rouge was commanded by Lomenech's successor, Lieutenant J.J. Allen, it ran into the middle of a German convoy while returning to England with two agents and secret mail. As the German warships steamed by, the SIS men could hear the sound of a gramophone playing and saw German officers peering at them through binoculars. But the convoy passed on.

Another legendary wartime SIS figure was David Birkin,

father of the actress Jane Birkin. He joined Slocum's section after Naval Signal School and took part in numerous clandestine trips to France.

Sir Brooks said Birkin found "the Scarlet Pimpernel" character of the work fascinating, although he was not a natural sailor. Like Nelson, he never overcame seasickness and always had to work with a bucket and towel at hand. As navigator on 33 missions, he carried in his jacket pockets his pipe, enough tobacco for two days, his box of survival

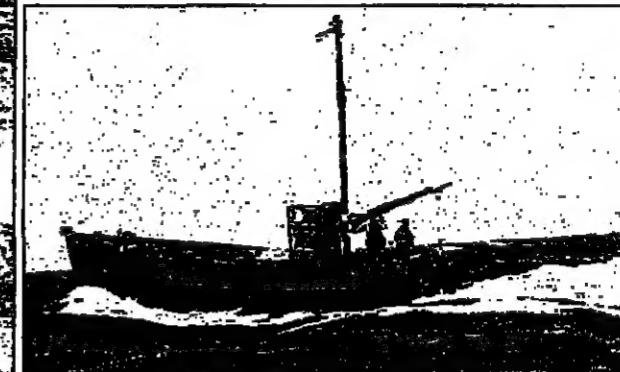
ration, a bottle of morphine tablets and a Luger.

Until silence became a necessity as they approached in France. In one rendezvous point, their progress across the Channel would normally be accompanied by the strains of the ship's radio, usually playing Vera Lynn. In one mission, Birkin was sent to pick up seven airmen from the island of Tarie, near Brest. They had made their way past German patrols by disguising themselves as seaweed gatherers and shell collectors.

Slocum's counterpart at the

SOE was Leslie Humphreys, who was also told to organise a section to run agents in France. In one rendezvous to pick up intelligence material, an agent called Gerry Holdsworth took a boat to the French coast and met a sailing vessel whose two-man crew handed him a package of clandestine mail. On their return to England, they were spotted by a customs officer who demanded to see the contents of the bag. Holdsworth refused but later had to get a licence from the customs service, granting him immunity from inspection for the rest of the war.

In the case of another SOE mission, which took place on the night of February 25, 1944, no detailed report has been preserved, except the name of one of two passengers being dropped off at a headland, called Beg-an-Fry. It was a young François Mitterrand, future President of France. The SOE had offered to return him to France after De Gaulle refused to do so, possibly because of Mitterrand's known connections with the Vichy Government.



SIS man David Birkin, with his daughter Jane

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THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a Times/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

Our capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

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Balkan havoc lets slip the mice of war

MEDICAL BRIEFING

WARS have been endemic in the Balkans for centuries. Where there is war there is squalor, and where there is squalor there are rats and mice. It is therefore not surprising that the Balkans also have an endemic kidney disease that is spread by rodents. From time to time this causes epidemics and whenever an army fights over countryside there is an outbreak.

In Bosnia, the first British soldier has fallen victim to Balkan nephropathy, one of the group of diseases, the Hanta virus, spread by eating mouse or rat droppings, or food contaminated by rodents' urine. The soldier has made a good recovery.

The virus is named after a Korean river, and was described as the cause of the local variety of the disease - Korean Haemorrhagic Fever - long after that war ended and the armies returned to their home bases.

In Korea the disease, which causes pain and tenderness over the renal angle and poor kidney function, sometimes resulting in complete renal failure, is particularly lethal, with a 20 per cent mortality rate. The Hanta viruses also cause spontaneous bleeding in organs other than the kidney, the skin and sometimes the brain and spinal cord, so that patients develop stroke-type symptoms. In wars, or in

large-scale army manoeuvres, the rats and mice are as much on the move as the armies. They are disturbed from their normal habitats and, by taking advantage of a sudden increase in food available, breed rapidly.

The risk to soldiers depends on the war zone. If they were not careful to keep the mouse droppings out of the soup in Korea, the death rate was as high as 20 per cent, whereas the variety of the virus which would be found by any of our special forces exercising in northern Europe causes a comparatively benign strain which has a death rate of only 1 per cent.

In terms of its lethal effect, the Balkans species is probably midway between the Far East version and the Scandinavian.

As there has been no war on American soil since the Civil War, the virulence of the local virus has not been thoroughly tested, but it is interesting that, although the Americans are great at living an out-of-doors life, the type of Hanta virus found in American rats and mice has never been known to affect people. The American army in Germany, however, suffered a serious outbreak after exercises in 1990.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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Families reunited as no-go controls vanish in Sarajevo

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE Bosnian Government yesterday reasserted its authority over all of Sarajevo after more than three years of war had divided the city into separate camps.

Hundreds of Sarajevoans from both sides trickled across the former front line into neighbourhoods they had not been permitted to see since April 1992 when the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. As they embraced family members and friends who had been on the other side of the line, they were also making a statement. Sarajevo, once divided by checkpoints, sniping and shelling, was again united under the authority of the central Government.

According to the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the Bosnian Serb militia which controlled five suburbs around the capital had to vacate the areas by midnight on Saturday. Nato said the deadline was met without incident. Although the Serb

militia has moved out of the suburbs, Bosnian Serb police and other civil authorities will remain in the areas for another 45 days.

The decision to permit Serb authorities to stay was brokered at the 11th hour by Carl Bildt, the former Swedish Prime Minister in charge of implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton plan. Mr Bildt was hoping to prevent panic among Serbs in these areas who fear for their safety when government authorities take over. About 20 per cent of the Serb population has left the areas that are due to be handed back to the Bosnian Government.

The Bosnian army, police and civilian authorities are to take full control of the areas on March 19, although Ifor, the Nato peace implementation force, will remain in the areas until December.

"This is the best day I have had in four years," said Danka, a middle-aged woman

who was reunited with her husband yesterday. Danka, a Serb from Sarajevo, had been staying at the family's country house in Ilidza when Serb forces took the suburb. Her husband, a doctor, remained in the capital.

Although they were only a few miles away from each other, the couple were unable to see each other for nearly four years. Three times they were able to speak through ham radios and once on the telephone. Danka said that yesterday she took sedatives and walked to Sarajevo across the former front line to find her husband. "We have both been crying all day," she said with a big grin.

Alternating between laughter and tears, Danka said it was terrible to see the destruction of Sarajevo. "Our apartment was just strewn with bullet holes and a lot of our paintings were destroyed," she said. Still, Danka said that she would be moving back to the capital permanently in the next few days.

Civilians have been permitted to cross front lines since the Dayton agreement took effect in December, but residents on both sides were wary of moving into areas still under the control of their enemies. Sarajevans rarely ventured into Serb-held suburbs, but now they are doing so with increasing regularity.

"I feel like I was born again," said Slavo, a 71-year-old Serb residing in Sarajevo who visited his godson in Serb-held Ilidza yesterday for the first time since 1992. "It is great. I just got on the tram and went to Ilidza. Nobody stopped me. Only our soldiers stepped in to say good day. Yesterday they were checking ID cards. today they're not. It is all one city now."

However, international mediators said the Bosniacs reluctantly agreed to the plan after an emergency meeting with Nato officers. Serbs in those areas say

Serb police can stay

Sarajevo Bosnian Serb police will be allowed to stay in former Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo for 45 days, although those areas were transferred to Bosnian government control yesterday, international mediators said (Stacy Sullivan writes).

Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, the separatist Bosnian Serbs had to withdraw all military forces from five suburbs around the Bosnian capital by midnight on Saturday. However, Carl Bildt, the international mediator, who is aiming to prevent a mass exodus of Serbs, negotiated an agreement to allow the Serb police to stay.

British ministers say

they fear retributions by the Bosnian Government. Residents have been fleeing Serb suburbs with their belongings for weeks.

Mr Bildt's decision angered the Bosnian Government. President Izetbegovic protested about the decision to Warren Christopher, the visiting US Secretary of State, accusing Mr Bildt of misinterpreting the Dayton agreement. Hasan Muratovic, Bosnia's new Prime Minister, demanded that the decision be revoked within seven days.

However, international mediators said the Bosniacs reluctantly agreed to the plan after an emergency meeting with Nato officers.

Mr Bildt said: "The miners strike five years ago against the

Dayton agreement took effect in December, but residents on both sides were wary of moving into areas still under the control of their enemies. Sarajevans rarely ventured into Serb-held suburbs, but now they are doing so with increasing regularity.

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'This cashier's office has no money'

Fears for economy as Yeltsin caves in

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

HUNDREDS of thousands of striking Russian miners returned to work at the weekend after Kremlin assurances that back wages would be paid and new subsidies spent on the coal industry.

After a well-organised walkout brought about 75 per cent of Russian coal production to a halt, most of the more than half a million striking miners returned to their pits on Saturday.

"Everything that I promised at the meeting with the leadership of the trade union of coal industry workers is being carried out," said Victor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, at the weekend after details of the huge cash handout were disclosed.

The union said the Government had agreed to make good £85 million in back pay, and provide £1.5 billion in industry funding this year. Vitali Budko, the union's leader, said the Kremlin had until March 1 to start meeting its commitment — or the miners would strike again.

A simultaneous strike by Ukraine's miners over unpaid wages goes on with stoppages and disruptions reported yesterday at about 40 per cent of its mines.

Although the Russian deal has bought the Kremlin a breathing space, the agreement may have set a dangerous precedent politically and economically. The Government's surrender after only 48 hours provided further evidence that, as part of his re-election campaign before the June polls, President Yeltsin plans to lavish subsidies and destabilise the economy by pushing up inflation, undermining the rouble and threatening a key £6 billion

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An unpaid miner turns away from the closed pay office at Prokopyevsk pit. Cash has been promised, but the union says it will strike again if the deal collapses.

Soviet authorities helped to bring the President to power, have set a precedent other disgruntled workers may copy.

The spring spending spree may help to shore up the Russian leader's sagging popularity, but also risks destabilising the economy by

destabilising the economy by pushing up inflation, undermining the rouble and threatening a key £6 billion

'Dynasty' star in war over her words

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOAN COLLINS, the actress, will appear in a stormy real-life drama due to start unfolding today before a New York jury.

The star of the hit television series *Dynasty* is locked in a legal battle with Random House, the publisher, in a failed \$4 million (£2.6 million) book deal. Random House claims Miss Collins broke her contract with its British and American publishers by turning in unusable manuscripts for two novels for which she had been paid an advance of \$1.3 million. Miss Collins, 62, responds that she put her acting career on hold to write *A Ruling Passion* and *Hell Hath No Fury* and insists the books are of publishable quality.

Random House is seeking the return of its advance, while the star is suing the publisher for the rest of her \$4 million. Miss Collins' two-book deal was negotiated by the late Hollywood super-agent, Irving "Swifty" Lazar, with Joni Evans, when she was an editor at Random House, which is now headed by Harold Evans, no relation, former editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The British actress, who played Alexis Carrington in *Dynasty*, already has three bestsellers to her name — *Prime Time*, *Past Imperfect*, *An Autobiography* and *Too Damn Famous*. Her sister Jackie is the queen of potboiler romances, such as *Hollywood Wives*.

Miss Collins believes she fell victim in in-house politics at Random House, as it tried to shut down the unprofitable Turtle Bay imprint created for books edited by Ms Evans.

Ironically, Miss Collins's latest screen role is as an actor's agent in Kenneth Branagh's new film, *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Portillo attacks 'slow boat' taunt

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN came under fresh criticism yesterday for slowing down the drive towards a single currency and for trying to deter European partners from monetary union.

British ministers reacted strongly to demands from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that "the slowest boat must not determine the speed of the fleet", and disagreements intensified over the likely starting date of the single currency as Britain warned Germany that Euroscepticism had to be acknowledged in the campaign for monetary union.

Senior European politicians have voiced concern at the increasingly forceful campaign waged by British ministers to delay a single currency. Karl Lamers, Herr Kohl's senior foreign policy adviser, was reported yesterday to have described Britain's stance over the single currency as irresponsible.

Mr Portillo, who has led

the Maastricht treaty negotiations, fought back against greater European integration by defending the importance of the "nation state" and dismissing claims that Britain was the "slowest boat" referred to by Herr Kohl.

However, pressure increased on Britain to stop its high-profile campaign to win the support of fellow European partners in opposing monetary union. Hans van den Brook, a European Commissioner for External Affairs, criticised the tactics used by British ministers since John Major secured an opt-out dur-

Britain savages nervous Germans

BY GEORGE BROCK

Conservative opposition to a single currency, rejected Herr Kohl's suggestion that Britain was the "slowest boat" in Europe, and would slow other countries down.

He firmly resisted plans to increase European integration, saying: "I believe the nation state still plays a very important part, that people identify with nation states. But nation states and nationalism are not the same thing. And what we're looking for is the way in which nations can collaborate together more and more, as irresponsible," he told Sky TV.

However, he accepted Herr Kohl's comment that, through closer co-operation, countries were less likely to go to war, but claimed that the German leader was referring to the period surrounding the Second World War rather than today. "Of course, everybody would agree that nobody wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s and 1940s," he said. But Mr Portillo emphasised there were other global threats to peace outside Europe. Earlier, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, defending the Government's resistance to a significant expansion of European Union powers, said the EU would cease to exist unless all its member states could be accommodated. His remarks were enthusiastically welcomed by Tory Eurosceptics, who said it was a welcome echo of Baroness Thatcher's "no nonsense" tone over Europe.

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Russian issues warning over Nato expansion

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

GERMANY and the United States tried unsuccessfully at the weekend to ease Russian fears about Nato enlarging eastwards. However, they succeeded only in triggering concern in Central Europe about the West's true intentions.

At the same time, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party chairman who looks likely to be the leading challenger to Boris Yeltsin in the June presidential election, gave a warning that any expansion by Nato to Central Europe would disrupt the balance of power and could jeopardise ratification of the Start 2 nuclear disarmament treaty.

Mr Zyuganov, speaking at a press conference yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, attempted to reassure Western governments about his party's geopolitical intentions.

He recognised the United States as the "clear leader" in the new global structure, but insisted that Russia could not simply be "written off" as a world power.

Expanding Nato to embrace Poland and other Central European states would be a sign that the West wanted to re-create the Cold War bipolar structure. That would have "disastrous consequences for world security and the whole future of humanity", as Russia would have to reconsider its position on conventional and nuclear disarmament, Mr Zyuganov said.

Helmut Kohl, the German

Chancellor, addressing senior politicians and defence experts at the annual Wehrkunde security conference in Munich, said the West had to address Moscow's anxiety about opening up the alliance to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians. "I have the impression that the West does not think enough about the psych-

ical situation in Moscow," he said.

Germany, with Britain, has been an energetic champion of Central European membership of Nato. But over the past few months there have been signs that Germany is becoming lukewarm about the idea, at least until after the Russian election. Every effort had to be made not to irritate Russia, Herr Kohl said. "We must

consider the understandable security interest of Russia and Ukraine. It goes without saying that it can only be harmful if a matter this important becomes a campaign theme on either side of the Atlantic."

"Lip-service" was certainly paid to enlargement yesterday as both William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, and Javier Solana, the new Nato chief, emphasised the advantages to Moscow of a larger Nato. "Nato, far from being a threat to Russia, actually contributes to the security of Russia as well as the security of its own members," Mr Perry said. However, he conceded: "When I reached that conclusion most of the Russians I talked to fell off the cliff."

The strongest tone at the conference was set by Andrei Kokoshin, the Deputy Defence Minister and chief Russian speaker, who said enlargement could topple Russia's reform process. "The expansion of Nato in violation of the obvious obligations of the West not to expand it after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union consent to German unification might fundamentally undermine Russia's confidence in the policy of the West," Mr Kokoshin added.

Nato was still seen as a basically hostile alliance. "Many of you see it as a changing entity. Russians view it as something that has not changed, which is taking advantage of our difficulties."

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Republican also-rans spot an opening as race turns into a frantic gallop

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS in Louisiana cast the first votes tomorrow in the shortest, and potentially most shambolic, race yet for an American presidential nomination.

A record 33 of the 50 states will be holding primaries and caucuses over the next 48 hectic days because many, including California, have advanced their contests to try to increase their influence.

This truncation seemed of little consequence when Robert Dole,

the veteran Senate majority leader, was prohibitive favourite for the Republican nomination, but could matter immensely now his campaign is faltering.

Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, has exposed the shallowness of Mr Dole's support, but the political novice is scarcely a credible nominee himself. Were his balloon to burst — as many analysts predict — the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, the conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, or even Indiana's Sen-

ator Richard Lugar could emerge from the obscurity in which they have languished so long.

In no state after Iowa and New Hampshire will Republican voters have the chance seriously to evaluate those alternatives to Mr Dole. The crush of contests will prevent real campaigning or meaningful debate. Candidates will be forced to sell themselves through 30-second commercials and airport soundbites.

The compressed timetable favours Mr Dole as easily the best-known and best-financed candid-

ate. But it means by late March the Republicans will be saddled with either a nominee who demonstrably fails to excite the troops or one hardly tested.

Either way he will be nearly broke, but ineligible for federal funds until his status is confirmed at a convention postponed until August because of July's Atlanta Olympics. By contrast, President Clinton, who faces no challenge for the Democratic nomination, will have a huge war chest to spend.

The irony is that the impact of the Iowa and New Hampshire

contests will be greater than ever, while those states that advanced contests have diminished, not increased, their influence. Louisiana is a prime example. Only Mr Gramm, Mr Buchanan and Alan Keyes, a black radio chat-show host, are contesting tomorrow's caucuses. The other six candidates feared offending Iowa voters further that Louisiana is challenging that state's right to hold the nation's first caucuses.

The Louisiana caucuses have thus been devalued, but are nonetheless an important subplot. All

three contestants are hardline conservatives. Whoever wins will portray himself as the true conservative standard-bearer going into next Tuesday's Iowa caucuses while the credibility of the losers will be badly damaged.

The stakes are especially high for Mr Gramm. From neighbouring Texas, he has worked Louisiana hard and has the backing of the state's Republican hierarchy which has rigged the rules to help him. To lose Louisiana would be a disaster, but he is being pressed hard by Mr Buchanan, the man

who savaged President Bush in 1992's Republican primaries.

Mr Buchanan is claiming the populist mantle of Huey Long, Louisiana's legendary Governor of the 1930s, presenting himself as the champion of ordinary working men against corporations moving jobs abroad. He won last week's straw poll of 10,000 Republicans in Alaska and is edging upwards in New Hampshire polls.

He argues: "If we can come out of Louisiana with a dramatic showing, we think it is all over for Phil Gramm."

Big freeze across America kills 42 and blights crops

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ARCTIC cold swept across North America at the weekend, threatening to freeze the ears off carte in Canada and endangering the citrus crop as far south as Florida.

Record low temperatures were measured from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Atlantic coast and well into the Deep South. The tiny Minnesota town of Tower, which has a population of 500, broke a 97-year-old state record to become the coldest place in the United States at -60C (-76F). In Chicago, where 600 people died in a heatwave last summer, the authorities put their new "extreme weather operation plan" into operation to protect residents.

In Washington, which is still recovering from last month's huge blizzard, Marion Barry, the Mayor, appealed for federal assistance to clear 8 in of snow.

New record lows were posted for Utah, where Salt Lake City fell to -24C (-12F) and Alabama, where Huntsville posted a low of -14C (75).

The temperature in normally steamy New Orleans plummeted to -5C (22F) while lows of -3C (26F) were expected overnight in citrus-growing areas of central Florida.

At least 42 deaths were attributed to the icy weather. In some cases these were due to fires started by individuals trying to keep warm.

Tens of thousands of homes

as far south as Louisiana and Mississippi found themselves without electricity as ice brought down powerlines, and garages were flooded with calls from motorists stranded on snow-bound roads.

The cold also brought its merrier moments, however. In International Falls, Minnesota, which calls itself the nation's ice box, one resident made a video of boiling water being thrown into the air and freezing before it hit the ground.

Two other residents of Minnesota braved a wind-chill factor of -40C (-40F) to get married in an outdoor ceremony at the annual winter carnival in the city of St Paul. Sherry Neary and Ken Wahlgren removed their gloves just long enough to exchange rings, and then slid down 200ft snow slides. "She melted the icicles off his moustache when she was kissing him," a carnival spokeswoman said.

In Wisconsin, sponsors of the annual Badger State winter games in Wausau cancelled skiing and other outdoor events. About 5,500 amateurs were registered for the competition.

Along the Virginia coast, a cargo ship buffeted by high winds ran aground near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

Freezing rain put a slippery glaze of ice on roads, trees and power lines across the lower Atlantic Coast states as far south as Georgia.

In North Carolina, a US Air Jet that had landed at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport slid off a taxiway into grass. None of the crew and 21 passengers aboard the Boeing 737 was injured. The plane, which had arrived from Pittsburgh, was not damaged, according to airport officials.

"This is a good place to meet," Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher and presidential hopeful, told a group of voters gathered at a coffee shop. "You can get some hot coffee to warm your hands, and now you can get some hot air to warm the rest of you."

Wayne Sharp, a dairy farmer near Valentine, Nebraska, was coping with the severe cold in a house with only a wood-burning stove for heating. "It isn't a lot of fun," he said. "We shut off about four rooms and kind of live in the living room and the kitchen." And while his family was cold, he said his cows were trimmable, with frost-bitten teats.

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Cattle, their muzzles and hides frozen by their breath, cluster together for warmth on a farm in Norwalk, Iowa

Britain a victim of ill wind's flight path

BY W. J. BURROUGHS

ONE reaction to the extremely cold weather gripping much of America is to assume that similar temperatures are coming our way. This seems to be based on the analysis that prevailing westerly winds will carry weather across the Atlantic within a week or so.

Taken at face value, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that bring cold weather to the eastern half of America are played out long before they cross the Atlantic. But there is a more subtle explanation for the possible connection between weather on each side of the

Atlantic. In winter, the westerly circulation of the jet stream, the strong winds in the upper atmosphere in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, can get stuck in a meandering pattern.

Because this circulation steers the course of the surface weather systems, it leads to Arctic air being funnelled southwards in some places, while in intermediate regions this is balanced by warm sub-tropical air moving northwards.

Cold weather in eastern America is often linked to a circulation pattern centred on the Rocky Mountains, with warm air moving up the West Coast

while to the east cold air sweeps down from Canada. Downstream, the next wave in the meandering pattern can sometimes produce an area of high pressure close to Britain, which brings cold easterly winds.

In winters like those in 1940, 1963 and 1979, this pattern can be maintained for weeks. Long-term statistics suggest that there is little justification for assuming that the cold pattern will hold sway, and we are just as likely to have mild weather as to share in the discomfort of our American cousins.

Forecast, page 20

Jerusalem café to take its last orders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER



Moshe Dayan, who was a regular at Café Atara, in west Jerusalem, which is due to become a Pizza Hut

Records and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream which have all recently opened in the centre of Jerusalem within a few hundred yards of each other.

Uri Greenspan, the founder's grandson, said he could not resist an offer from Pizza Hut to sell his tenant's rights for a reported £30,000, and added that the café had never closed, even when Jerusalem was shelled in the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six Day War.

The Atara was founded in 1938 by Heinz Greenspan, a refugee from Nazi Germany. The café immediately attracted a lively and mixed clientele, including British officers, Palestinian businessmen, social-

UN to cut 1,150 jobs at its HQ

BY JAMES BONE

THE United Nations, due to run out of money in April, is planning unprecedented job cuts at its New York headquarters. A confidential memorandum obtained by *The Times* says it will trim 1,150 people from its 14,000 staff by the end of this year.

The secretariat cutbacks have been forced on the UN by America, which lobbied successfully for a reduction in the organisation's budget to placate the Republican-controlled Congress. Members owe the UN about \$3.3 billion in unpaid dues, almost half of which is owed by America.

The memorandum, which records a meeting of the advisory panel on management and finance, says 210 professional staff and 480 clerical workers must go. The cuts "may affect some areas to such an extent that the activities cannot be sustained".

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to announce cost-savings at the General Assembly's budgetary committee tomorrow. It is rumoured he may shut the headquarters for a month.

Mr Greenspan, who claims that civil servants and not elected politicians are doing the talking, has vowed to end the negotiations going, even if an early poll is announced.

Christopher tries to hasten pace of Israeli peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the US Secretary of State, today launched his seventh and most testing diplomatic mission between Israel and Syria in an attempt to boost peace talks before elections in both Israel and the United States this year.

Mr Christopher arrived in Jerusalem to find Israel already embroiled in pre-election fever. However, Shimon Peres the Prime Minister, has yet to make a formal announcement that the date of the poll is being brought forward from October 29 to either late May or early June.

After a meeting with Mr Peres yesterday, Raanan Cohen, the head of the ruling Labour Party's Knesset faction, lambasted the Likud opposition for criticising the reported decision to bring forward the poll and forecast that voting would take place on May 21 or 28.

Likud, which is lagging badly in the opinion polls as a result of a backlash after the assassination in November of Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jewish fanatic, took large advertisements in yesterday's Is-

raeli papers under the new slogan "Giving Up the Golan is National Suicide". The peace talks with Syria are likely to play a key role in what is expected to be a heated and divisive campaign.

American officials are resigned to an early Israeli election, although privately aides close to Mr Christopher admit that it will slow down, if not completely halt, the peace talks that have been taking place in Maryland.

Mr Peres, who claims that civil servants and not elected politicians are doing the talking, has vowed to end the negotiations going, even if an early poll is announced.

Yesterday Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Housing Minister, said Labour needed an early mandate from the people to make fateful decisions in talks with both Syria and the Palestinians.

The minister, whose background will be vital in helping Labour win votes among the Oriental Jewish community that has tended to favour Likud in recent years, claimed that early elections were a good idea to reduce the possi-

bility of months of attacks by Palestinians or Islamic terrorists, which could turn the electorate against the peace process.

The latest opinion poll published in Israel gave Mr Peres 46 per cent of the vote in his campaign to be re-elected as Prime Minister, compared with only 30 per cent for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader. Mr Peres has pledged that if a peace deal with Syria were reached after the election, any decision to hand back the Golan Heights, conquered from Syria in 1967, would be subject to a national referendum.

Mr Christopher, who has invested much time and effort in his bid to tie up an Israeli-Syrian peace deal prior to the American presidential election in November, is expected to try to use the likelihood of an imminent poll in Israel as a tool to persuade Syria to hurry the present, rather sedate peace talks.

Israel has also asked him to try to arrange a summit between Mr Peres and President Assad, but that is considered unlikely at this stage.

Bomb suspect is deported

Nicosia: A Saudi man wanted for the November bombing of the American-run Saudi National Guard training centre in Riyadh, in which five Americans and two Indians died, has been deported to Saudi Arabia by Pakistan (Michael Theodosiou writes). Hassan al-Sarai had lived in Pakistan since 1990. Saudi dissidents blamed the attack on Islamic militants who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Million-dollar kicker relaxes

New York: Michael Volino, the New York policeman who has won the chance to kick a million-dollar goal at an American football game in Hawaii, has prepared for it by following his wife's advice and rehining by the pool (James Bone writes). Sergeant Volino will win \$1 million if he scores the equivalent of a rugby place kick from 25 yards.

Gunmen attack publisher

Lagos: Alex Ibru, publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, *The Guardian*, has survived a murder attempt, the newspaper said. He was shot inside his car in Lagos. Doctors said Mr Ibru, 61, was hit in the head and may lose his left eye. He was also shot in the leg. (Reuters)

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Why are
England
so slow
on the
uptake?

SCHOOLS SPORT



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Kwik way
proves
more
than hit
and miss

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996



Peacock sweeps in his second and Chelsea's third goal during their impressive dismissal of an outclassed and shell-shocked Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Gullit masterminds demolition of Middlesbrough

Chelsea turn back the clock

Chelsea
MiddlesbroughBy ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CHELSEA have not flowed like this, not dominated opponents or passed the ball with such mellifluous touch, for at least a quarter of a century. They were ruthless for 70 minutes yesterday, taking a pitiful Middlesbrough apart, scoring five times when the total could almost have been double.

It takes them to within three points of the fourth-placed team in the FA Carling Premiership. It takes the fathers of small sons back to their own boyhood when players of the essence of Charlie Cooke, Alan Hudson and Peter Osgood were filling Stamford Bridge with film stars, non-stars and tens of thousands of people who came to appreciate that the ball had a greater purpose than merely being a windbag hoisted uncaringly the length of the field by British boots.

In fact, this was the biggest Chelsea win in the top flight since 1964 and only Ruud Gullit, of this side, was alive, just, in that vintage year. Glenn Hoddle was then a youngster and is now the builder of this new Chelsea revolution, a builder, who learnt that he, and his wonderful brand of football was better appreciated on the Continent.

So it is that Hoddle may be a target for the Football Association as coach of England instead of the man whose team—whose reserves—his Chelsea so soundly whipped yesterday. Bryan Robson reiterated afterwards that he has not been offered Terry Venables' job and that he feels such an offer would be premature in his coaching life. Hoddle was somewhat more enigmatic when the same proposition was put to him by the

press, for they are messengers only of speculation and Hoddle insists that nobody can turn down a job that "nobody has been offered".

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, revelling in rumours of renewed feuding in the boardroom, was in typically "shy" mood on Saturday when asked if he would release his manager for the betterment of England. "Glenn would be an absolute idiot if he were to take the England job," Bates, who happens to be an FA councillor, retorted.

Yet why pontificate on what may or may not be when the football laid before the audience at Stamford Bridge was so majestic? Gullit, effectively the coach in motion, the catalyst for the quite astonishing improvement in passing and vision at Chelsea, could himself be a candidate to lead England if ever Lancaster Gate drops its appalling "no foreigners" myopia.

senior players absent. They did not show the slightest knowhow of how to stop a giant Dutchman with a 9ft stride and marvellous peripheral vision. They did not dare go forward enough, to prevent David Lee, an English defender, from coming forward to stroke the ball 20 or 30 yards with his right foot as if he were... well, another Gullit.

From midfield, Gullit orchestrated the slaughter of the Middlesbrough lams. The visitors, still struggling to acclimatise to life in the Premiership after their promotion from the Endsleigh Insurance League first division last season, could not cope with not only Juninho but five other

Clough refreshed
Cantona returns
South Africa's cup

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Thus they destroyed Middlesbrough. The first goal, it has to be said, was an error by that excellent referee, Keith Cooper. After a corner from Lee in the 25th minute, Middlesbrough pushed up out of defence, leaving Gullit patiently outside, his enormous frame right in front of the goalkeeper, Walsh. Nevertheless, when Peacock struck the ball with his right foot, the shot was allowed to bounce in front of and then past the unstrighted keeper and to count as a goal.

That slight excuse began Middlesbrough's hue. Three minutes later, a thoroughly legitimate second goal came via the exceptional passing ability of the Romanian, Petrescu. His arrival after two strangely wasted seasons at Sheffield Wednesday has coincided with his opening up of skills seen to the full in the Romania national team and his pass to Spencer was followed by fine control

on the thigh by the little Scot and then a merciless right-foot shot across Walsh.

Seven minutes later, Gullit was pulling the strings again. He exchanged a one-two with Spencer, both of them moving off the ball with intuitive expectation, and then the Dutchman, with the goal seemingly at his mercy, selflessly turned inside instead, saw Peacock and presented his colleague with his second goal of the afternoon.

Peacock was to complete his hat-trick, the first he has scored in the Premiership, after Spencer's wonderful lob in the 55th minute, but, before then, the 21,000-strong Chelsea crowd saw something they had been up to hope of seeing on their own turf—a goal from Furlong. Even he, apparently a bad boy by Hoddle at over £2 million, is learning the art of refinement. Gullit, inevitably, began the move, striking the ball 40, maybe 50 yards to Petrescu. The Romanian looked for Furlong, found him and then the big centre forward gathered the ball with his left foot, held off Liddle with body strength and finished the goal with his right foot.

Some people became heated by a little spat on the touchline involving Mike Kelly, the Middlesbrough goalkeeping coach, Hudson and Osgood, but why did they bother? We had watched a master class in action, we had seen before our very eyes that foreigner like Gullit (if there are any more) can inspire and instil British players to use the ball mesmerically, inventively, accurately. Confidence, says Hoddle, is the key.

Asprilla watched Parma's win yesterday, which took them to second place in Serie A. "I am still tempted by Newcastle's offer, but, seeing how things have gone, I'm happy to stay with Parma," he said.

The Football Association of Ireland is expected to announce today that Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, will be the new manager in succession to Jack Charlton.

Parma pull out of Asprilla deal

By PETER RALL

THE saga of Faustino Asprilla's proposed £7 million transfer from Parma to Newcastle United came to an abrupt end, when officials of the clubs met in Milan yesterday. Parma, the Italian League club, withdrew from the deal, claiming that Newcastle had tried to cut the fee because of doubts about Asprilla's knee.

"Newcastle continue to maintain that there are problems with Asprilla's knee, and so they want a big cut in the price," Giorgio Pedraneschi, the Parma president, said, after his club's 4-0 win over Sampdoria yesterday. "We have medical reports which tell us the opposite and as a result it was not possible to reach any agreement."

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Referee: K Cooper (Pontypool)

Impressive run puts Olympic champion on track to defend her title

Return of Gunnell is timed to perfection

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SALLY GUNNELL yesterday surpassed her most optimistic assessment of how she might do in her comeback when she ran 400 metres quicker than she managed in her first race of 1993. That was the year she set a 400 metres hurdles world record, adding the world title to her Olympic gold medal.

Now she can look forward with renewed confidence to defending her Olympic title six months hence. In finishing second behind Melanie Neef in the AAA of England indoor championships in Birmingham, she recorded 53.07sec, compared with the 53.36sec she ran first time out in 1993. "I could not have asked for more," Gunnell said.

Neef's presence was just what Gunnell needed. Drawn inside Gunnell, Neef made up the stagger on the first bend

Given that, after surgery, it was November before Gunnell resumed full training, December before "it was starting to flow" and January before she was training twice a day, this was a highly satisfactory weekend. She has three more indoor races planned. Gunnell is up to date with leg drills over hurdles — "what I usually do at this time of year" — and will start work on her stride pattern next month.

Although Gunnell has no intention of attempting the European indoor championships next month, Neef probably will, as will Mark Hylton, winner of the men's 400 metres. Hylton has won the title twice before his twentieth birthday. His 46.45sec puts him seventh on the British all-time list and he will expect to be quicker next week when, back in Birmingham for the Ricoh Tour, he faces Darnell Hall, the world indoor champion. Charles Gitonga, the Commonwealth champion, and Duane Ladejo, the European indoor and outdoor champion. "I cannot wait! I am going out to get a few scalps," Hylton said.

While Gunnell arrived after injury to test her fitness, Linford Christie, Britain's other Olympic champion, arrived fit but left injured. Christie pulled up in the 60 metres final after showing impressive form over 100 metres in Australia the weekend before.

Christie, who hurt an adductor, will inform the British Athletic Federation (BAF) today that he is out of the Birmingham meeting on Saturday. "He is definitely out," Sue Barrett, his manager, said. He will fly to Germany this week to visit the Munich doctor to whom he usually turns for treatment. "We do not know exactly the extent of the damage," Barrett added.

"I wanted to run what I did going into 1993," Gunnell added. "I would have been happy with anything in that region."

New chief executive required to run TCCB

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE most important professional post in English cricket falls vacant today, when Alan Smith will inform the chairman of the first-class counties that he is to stand down as chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). The job is to be advertised in *The Times* on Wednesday.

Smith will be 60 in October and it is understood he will technically remain in office until then. A successor is being sought with some urgency, however, and it is planned that he should work alongside Smith during the summer.

The timing of the announcement will surprise many. Although Smith had insisted privately to friends that he would retire this year, there was a cynical view — sponsored by many detractors — that he would seek to cling to power through the formative years of his brainchild, the English Cricket Board, the tortuous formation of which should be completed within 12 months.

Smith, who captained Warwickshire and played for England as a wicket-keeper-batsman, occasionally diversifying into a curiously effective swing bowler, graduated to the top job in the game in 1987. Often pedantic, invariably misinformed, he has nonetheless displayed vigilance, integrity and boundless energy during a sensitive and highly-charged era for the professional game.

"I have had to operate within a system," he says in answer to criticism. "There are a number of things that have happened while I've been here that I have disagreed with, sometimes quite strongly, but I am not a dictator and I have had to bite my tongue."

Ironically, Smith's successor will inevitably be endowed with more executive powers within a somewhat streamlined system. The job brief, however, will remain much as before and the TCCB will rightly stipulate the priority of a cricketing background.



Gunnell, plainly delighted with her performance, steps up to congratulate Neef, in Birmingham yesterday

Michael Rossweiss, who trailed Christie when injury struck, was thus fortunate to win a third successive title. Mike Oluban, Rossweiss's coach, has taken a job in Japan which means that, not only has the athlete lost his trainer, but Birmingham has one less female entrant to call on. Oluban is on a one-year contract coaching Japan's leading sprinters.

It strikes Rossweiss as ironic

that the Japanese federation is putting financial support into its sprinters while he has to "go it alone". He suggested it was derisory that, according to the BAF pay scale, a 10.40sec 100 metres was worth an appearance fee of only £100. "BAF do not support you," Rossweiss complained.

Nick Buckfield set his third British indoor pole-vault record in eight days, with 5.61 metres, Doug Turner moved

up to No 8 in the all-time 200 metres rankings, winning in 21.06sec. Michelle Dunkey, 18, won the women's high jump and Judy Oakes has almost as many national titles as she has had birthdays. Aged 37, she has 36, after

they have chosen are expected to be quicker in Atlanta.

By far the most impressive indoor performance of the weekend came from Haile Gebrsellasie, of Ethiopia, who set a world indoor 3,000 metres record yesterday when he ran 7min 30.72sec, at a meeting in Stuttgart. The previous record, of 7min 35.15sec, was set by Moses Kiptanui, of Kenya, in Gent, Belgium, in February 1995.

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France flop at Murrayfield as underdogs have their day to head championship table

Scotland's bravado reaps rich reward

Scotland 19
France 14

By MARK SOUTTER

SCOTLAND will head for Cardiff in a fortnight's time the only unbeaten team in the five nations' championship. The dramatic manner of their victory over France on Saturday at Murrayfield will see them start favourites to beat Wales and leave them seeing the possibility, when they meet England next month of a first grand slam since 1990 — a highly satisfying position for a team dismissed as "potentially hopeless" only three weeks ago.

The Scots were emphatic

thing is we put into practice what we try on the training ground and credit must go to Richie Dixon and David Johnston, the coaches, for all the hard work they put in."

Jim Telfer, the Scotland manager, was anxious to keep things in perspective. "I think we let them off the hook a little bit. It was not completely fulfilling. We were trying to entertain rather than play a balanced game. We should have calmed the game down a bit in places, but if you don't take chances, you don't win anything."

At the heart of it all was another inspiring display by the Scottish pack, which, while half a stone lighter per man than their opponents, was light years ahead in speed of thought and movement. Repeatedly, the Scots reached the breakdown in numbers, tackled ferociously and drove the French back around the fringes. When France tried to expand, the Scottish cover defence was exemplary.

The French front row was

anonymous, Merle and Roumat lumbering and the back row, even Benazzi, obliterated. There must be a huge question mark about their overall fitness; it was sad to see

barely bother to chase back as he and Dods followed an exquisite chip, delivered with the inside of his right foot, by Bryan Redpath, which resulted in Scotland's first try after eight minutes.

That score was no more than Scotland deserved after a blistering start that rocked the French on their heels and epitomised the Scots' spirit of adventure, with Shepherd, who had a splendid match, leading the charge impressively from full back. When Merle, who was later to receive a yellow card for stamping, stopped him with a throat-high tackle, Clayton Thomas, the referee allowed more than a minute's advantage, time in which Scotland scored, but only after the full



Shepherd sways away from Benazzi's tackle and prepares to test Carboneau as Scotland go on the offensive against France on Saturday. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

FIVE NATIONS'



CHAMPIONSHIP

winners over a pedestrian French side, one clearly shaken by the vibrancy of Scotland's performance. Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, paid his hosts the ultimate compliment after the match — Scotland, he said, had played the kind of rugby that France aspired to.

The performance was not flawless — there are still question marks about Michael Dods's reliability as a kicker, while the inability to convert pressure into points remains a concern — but it would be churlish to be negative when there was so much to enjoy. Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, who admitted to being more nervous than he had ever been before an international, said: "It is an incredible feeling. The gratify-

back had again been involved in the move with a marvelous flipped pass behind his back.

Scotland were often electric, yet again Townsend, with wonderful half-sprints that constantly kept France guessing, and Redpath, with his sublime service, were the catalysts for some exhilarating and entertaining rugby. Occasionally in the second half, they were over-elaborate, but whenever danger threatened, Scotland were able to regroup quickly.

The lack of a killer instinct is Scotland's Achilles' heel, but while that will come with experience, it meant on this occasion that, instead of turning round with a commanding lead, the advantage was only three points after Castaigné had kicked a penalty and Benazzi had twisted over from

a lineout and maul. Dods replied, with two penalty goals in four minutes, but he was otherwise wayward with his kicking, succeeding with only three out of nine attempts in the match.

With the scoreline so close, France tried to up the tempo but were stopped in their tracks 12 minutes into the second half. Scotland ran a penalty on the Z2 and a huge floated pass by Redpath reached Dods in the clear. The wing juggled with the ball, but held on to touch down in the corner. Lacroix, who had been badly cut in the first minute, twice reduced the Scots' lead and agonising memories from the World Cup were rekindled. Dods, however, kept his nerve when it mattered to convert his third and most difficult penalty and, when the diminutive McKenzie somehow stole French ball at a maul two minutes from time, Scotland knew the day was theirs. The lessons from Pretoria had been learned.

SCORERS: Scotland: Dods (2), Penalty goals; Dods (3). France: Try: Carboneau. Penalties: Lacroix (2). **SCOTLAND:** R J Shepherd (Aberose); C A John (Melrose); S Hastings (Mertonians); C Jardine (String Country); M Dods (Northumbrian); G P Towner (Edinburgh); R J Campbell (Dunlop); B W Williams (Bath); D J Hilton (Bath); K D McKenzie (String Country); P H Wright (Broughmuir); R J Redpath (Edinburgh); J C Townsend (Clydebank); J J Campbell (Dunlop); G W Williams (Newcastle); I R Smith (Gloucester); E W Peters (Bath). **FRANCE:** Carboneau (Colomiers); T Lacroix (Toulouse); A Pernat (Bordeaux); T Castelnau (Toulouse); P Saint-André (Montpellier); captain; T Lacroix (Dax); P J M Gouzeau (Bordeaux); P Merle (Montauban); G Roumat (Dax); L J M Gouzeau (Bordeaux); P Pecque (Dax); S Gis (Boulogne); J Pecque (Dax); temporary replacement for Lacroix (1-13th); **Referee:** C Thomas (Wales).

Wainwright accepts surrender recalling shades of Waterloo

W ellington was not joking when he made his crack about the playing fields of Eton. "If you want to interest a Frenchman in a game," it has been said, "tell him it's war. If you want to interest an Englishman in war, tell him it's a game." The French, a capricious lot themselves, have never been entirely comfortable with gifted mavericks from these isles. On Saturday they flew the flag of surrender once more and the score had a historic ring to it, 1914, although 1915 would have done just as nicely.

France went to Murrayfield scented blood; instead they stoned their own. That breaking of the dam against England two weeks ago counted for nought as Scotland tore into a team of obvious talent and little resolve. After paying full tribute to Scotland, and one must for theirs was a considerable performance, this was nevertheless a shocking, almost spineless display by

French.

Just when it seemed they had assembled a team that rugby followers of every hue could celebrate, and it is fair to say everybody loves them when "they play as only they can," France revealed the obverse side of their nature. They submitted. It all brought to mind the joke about why

heroes."

Nowhere more than at full back, where Rowan Shepherd, of Melrose, came of age, and on the wing, where Michael Dods claimed both tries, the second after a bit of a juggling, and all 19 points. The contrast with France's three musketeers was pointed. Sadoorny, Niemack and Salm-André left their sabres sheathed.

Scotland's ability to replenish their stock of players from within a small pool is little short of astonishing. They were thought to be breading water but are now halfway to a grand slam. Wainwright and Telfer will not need to remind the players that the more difficult half lies ahead because England, for all their shortcomings, will not lie down as feebly as the French.

Men in kilts are already hooting "bring on the English" and Murrayfield's magnificent stadium should witness a mighty struggle on March 2. The small-minded attitudes regarding England are still present in these parts and they will not have got much bigger in a month's time, particularly if Scotland have swept Wales out of the way by then.

In the meantime the message from Scotland in this five nations' championship is clear: get your tanks off our midden.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

At Murrayfield



Dods celebrates his try at Murrayfield yesterday even as he falls to the ground

Hammond fades at testing time

ROGER HAMMOND, occupied with university examinations during January, knows he can do better — and must do — if he is again to be a world champion at cyclo-cross (Peter Bryan writes).

For the opening half-hour of the world under-23 event on the eastern outskirts of Paris on Saturday, Hammond, in his final year at Brunel, gave every hope of repeating his 1992 success, when he won the junior title. He was one of half a dozen early leaders on the muddy circuit, beneath which ice threatened the unwary, and he had the power and confidence to do his share at the front.

As the 21km race went into the closing stages, however, Hammond's body drained of strength and he appeared to be going backwards as riders quickly came from behind to overtake him.

Miguel Martinez, of France, riding a mountain bike, seized his chance to snatch victory in 46min 57sec, with Hammond trailing in — still the best Briton — nineteenth and Iman Issek behind the new champion.

The Five Cities track league series at the National Cycling Centre ended in victory for Manchester, with a 13-point lead over London and 20 points over Edinburgh.

Kwik way for cricket to catch them young

By JOHN GOODBODY

CRICKET is not the easiest sport to introduce to youngsters. The traditional game demands time and patience and a high level of skill, something that small children do not usually possess. They like action and non-stop involvement — compressed into short periods of the primary school day.

The London Schools' Cricket Project has met these difficulties head-on. Desperately keen that more youngsters should be introduced to the sport, it sent coaches to 811 primary schools between 1990 and 1995 to give concentrated instruction and supervision of Kwik cricket. In this academic year alone, it is hoping to visit 622 schools in the capital.

The William Davies School in Forest Gate, East London did not have the most cheerful of January afternoons last week to introduce youngsters to England's traditional summer game. The sun may have been shining but a sharp wind cut across the playground. With 30 pupils eager for exercise, it did not seem to be a suitable day for refining individual technique.

Yet what was remarkable was the amount of individual tuition that was possible by one coach, while still keeping the interest of the rest of the class. During bowling practice, the youngsters would deliver their balls and then



Pupils at William Davies School get in the swing of a playground Kwik cricket game

against Australia or the West Indies, but when England are playing India or Pakistan, they sometimes do not know where they are."

She has always welcomed the Project's suggestion to send in a coach for five sessions a year. "Cricket teaches teamwork and the discipline of learning a game, with its rules and need for fairness."

The Project has a budget of about £100,000 for this year to help to pay for two full-time and ten part-time coaches to tour the London schools. This total includes £5,000 from Tesco — the supermarket chain — plus a further £5,000 from Kwik Matthews.

from the Government's Sportsmatch scheme.

This particular sponsorship encourages youngsters to attend more advanced free coaching clinics in their local schools, after their initial "taster" courses in their individual schools. The rest of the funds come from MCC, county schools, charitable and cricket trusts and donations from the schools.

Oliver McClintock, the deputy co-ordinator of the Project, says: "If just one child from each school wants to play cricket at recreational level as an adult, we will have 600 children going into the game every year. However, we are not only creating the players for the future. We are also creating the parents and paying parents."

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Williams ends long wait for Welsh win

By PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS benefited from one of the worst performances of John Parrott's career to win the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Newport on Saturday and so become the first Welshman to capture a world-ranking title for seven years.

Not since the 1989 world championship final, when Parrott collapsed to an 18-3 defeat against Steve Davis, has he played as poorly on an important occasion. Williams, without being anywhere near his best, was never pressed.

In these days, when consistent break-building is a pre-requisite for success at the highest level, it is hard to believe that Williams failed to compile a half-century break in the quarter-finals and put together only three during the semi-finals and final.

Haydn Davies, vice-chairman of the Essex Schools Cricket Association, added: "The main idea is to get children involved with bat and ball, so they will at least try the game out at secondary school."

The hour-long session ended with 25 minutes of Kwik cricket, which allows everyone to have a go, either hitting Griffiths' deliveries across the playground or everyone's delight or missing the ball.

One pupil, Bilal Hassan, 9, said: "I like whacking the ball a long way." He was bowled by one ball, that may have turned on the tarmac. "The ball went wonky," he said.

Williams, who had stolen

another on the black during the afternoon, must have expected Parrott to mount a fightback on the resumption but the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion continued to struggle.

A run of 60 from Williams, the highest break of the contest, put him 7-2 ahead and Parrott's fate was effectively sealed when he missed a straightforward red after a run of 46 in the tenth frame to allow Williams in for a 52 clearance to the pink.

Williams, who collected a prize of £36,000, began the 1995-96 campaign in 39th place in the world rankings but is now twelfth on the provisional list.

Ian Doyle, head of the Team Sweater Shop, management stable, to which the 20-year-old from Ebbw Vale belongs, confirmed yesterday that Williams will be awarded a place in the Regal Scottish Masters in September.

Matthew Stevens, 18, from Carmarthen, took advantage of his wild-card entry to the Benson and Hedges Masters by beating Terry Griffiths 5-3 yesterday at the Wembley Conference Centre to qualify for a match with Alan McManus.

RESULTS: Pool: M Williams (Wales) bt J Parrott (Wales) 7-2. Fours: G Williams (Wales) 6-1, G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10, G11, G12, G13, G14, G15, G16, G17, G18, G19, G20, G21, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G30, G31, G32, G33, G34, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42, G43, G44, G45, G46, G47, G48, G49, G50, G51, G52, G53, G54, G55, G56, G57, G58, G59, G60, G61, G62, G63, G64, G65, G66, G67, G68, G69, G70, G71, G72, G73, G74, G75, G76, G77, G78, G79, G80, G81, G82, G83, G84, G85, G86, G87, G88, G89, G90, G91, G92, G93, G94, G95, G96, G97, G98, G99, G100, G101, G102, G103, G104, G105, G106, G107, G108, G109, G110, G111, G112, G113, G114, G115, G116, G117, G118, G119, G120, G121, G122, G123, G124, G125, G126, G127, G128, G129, G130, G131, G132, G133, G134, G135, G136, G137, G138, G139, G140, G141, G142, G143, G144, G145, G146, G147, G148, G149, G150, G151, G152, G153, G154, G155, G156, G157, G158, G159, G160, G161, G162, G163, G164, G165, G166, G167, G168, G169, G170, G171, G172, G173, G174, G175, G176, G177, G178, G179, G180, G181, G182, G183, G184, G185, G186, G187, G188, G189, G190, G191, G192, G193, G194, G195, G196, G197, G198, G199, G200, G201, G202, G203, G204, G205, G206, G207, G208, G209, G210, G211, G212, G213, G214, G215, G216, G217, G218, G219, G220, G221, G222, G223, G224, G225, G226, G227, G228, G229, G230, G231, G232, G233, G234, G235, G236, G237, G238, G239, G240, G241, G242, G243, G244, G245, G246, G247, G248, G249, G250, G251, G252, G253, G254, G255, G256, G257, G258, G259, G260, G261, G262, G263, G264, G265, G266, G267, G268, G269, G270, G271, G272, G273, G274, G275, G276, G277, G278, G279, G28

Rowell's problems accumulate as stuttering victory fails to mask embarrassment at Twickenham

New England pioneers left stranded

England 21
Wales 15

By DAVID HANIS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh, when seeking an adjective for someone who is slow on the uptake, describe them as dull. England are playing "dull" rugby this season, both in the Welsh sense and, ultimately, in the more prosaic sense of the word.

They held the game at Twickenham on Saturday in the palm of their hand and they let it go through a stubborn inflexibility for which they will pay dearly if it is reproduced against Scotland next month. Perhaps it is as well that England have a break from the five nations' championship now; they need to take a long, hard look at how, and with whom, they are playing the game.

The only part of England's game that functioned to any degree in the Six and Pro-prietary international was the midfield, where Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott carved out the sort of openings rarely seen in international rugby. For a year now the scrum has not been the force England claim it to be and the lineout was

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

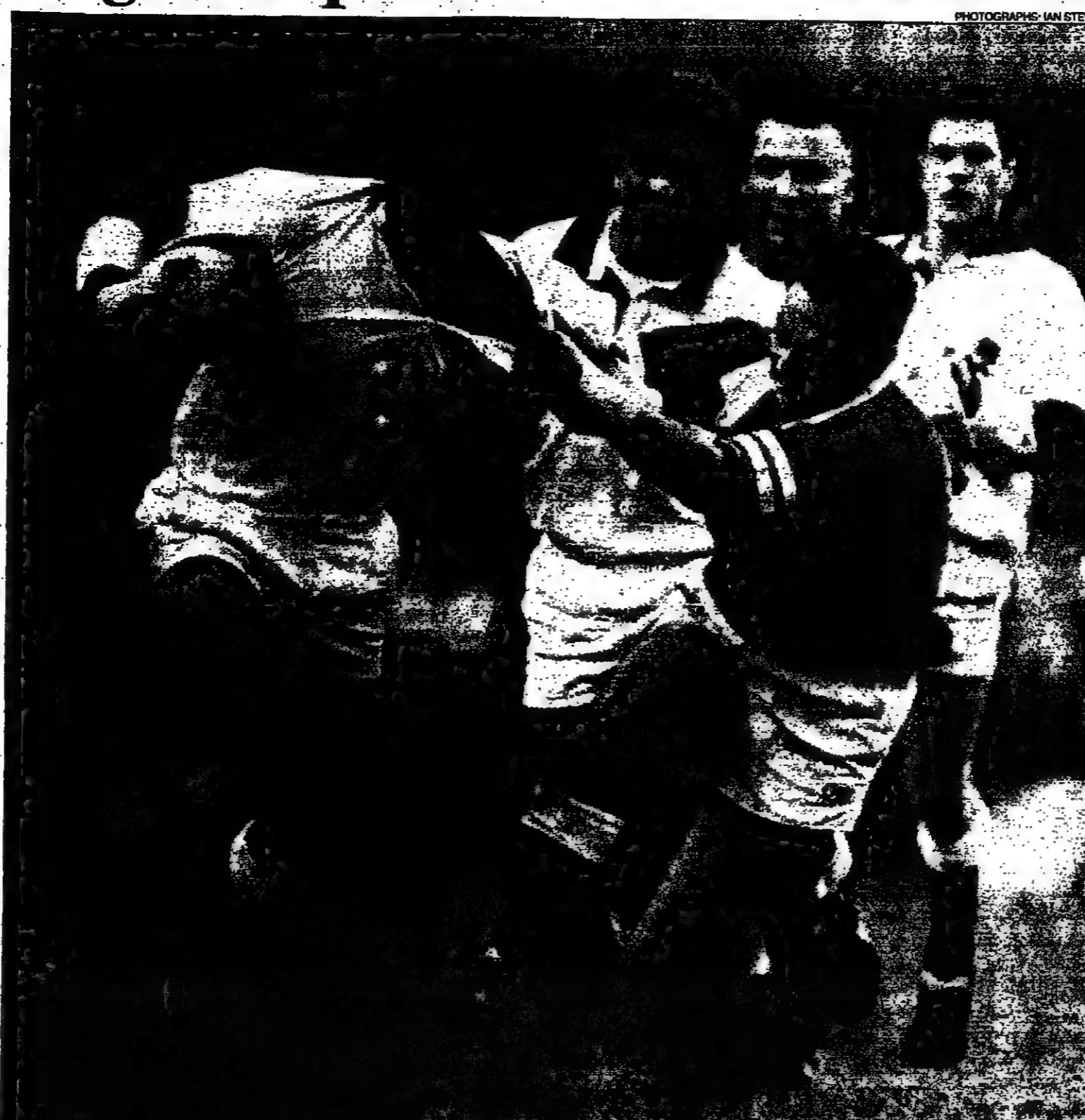
even more of a disaster than in Paris last month.

For that the Welsh deserve credit and no one more than Gareth Llewellyn, who instituted himself in front of England's jumpers and contributed substantially to Wales' 16-7 lineout dominance. Elsewhere, the sense of adventure that earned Henri Taylor his try must be set against the indiscipline that littered the Welsh game and, quite justifiably, incurred the wrath of the referee, Ken McCartney.

They were penalised 21 times to England's nine sometimes for the lack of "professional" foul that, by and large, rugby has escaped: when Guscott creates an opening and looks for support, only to find Mike Catt physically restrained by Leigh Davies, it is time for referees to ponder the route taken by Tony Spreadbury when he awarded that controversial penalty try in the University match in December.

Yet Wales, for whom Robert Howley played so well on his debut, contrived a pattern of sorts whereas England were knocked sadly out of kilter. Jack Rowell, the manager, will have been embarrassed to have been caught by the microphone in the players' tunnel muttering that he could not believe what he was seeing as the game neared what might be inaccurately described as its climax, but he could be excused.

There is no doubt that the England manager has a problem. The inability to translate apparently good training hab-



Guscott, left, with de Glanville, Regan, and Grayson trying to provide support, is hauled back by Nigel Davies, the Wales centre

its to the field of play is a cogent "either" on his management skills or those of his executives — captain, pack leader, senior players. Criticism of the clubs can only be taken so far, since the absence of an identifiable English style has been overcome in the past.

At present, England are not rucking like Bath or mauling like Leicester; they are not playing fast and loose like Wasps or Sale. They are an amorphous mass relieved only by the odd flash of inspiration by the centres and the faithful support of Lawrence Dallaglio. They must rediscover some focus, but there is little sign of the incumbents providing it. For Ben Clarke to claim that England are "close to brewing up a storm" is faintly ludicrous.

They are incapable of sustaining any degree of momentum. The one piece of genuine continuity that led to Rory Underwood's try — his fifth in international rugby — started before Jon Sleighton bowled out a pass that bounded fortuitously for Gaff

and all Underwood had to do was run over in the corner.

Otherwise they are prey to the curse of the northern-hemisphere game — ball killed on the ground. Players, from both sides, are not permitted to ruck properly. John Humphreys, the Wales captain, said: "If you are going to be on the wrong side of the ball you know exactly what to expect and you have to roll away. Spectators come to see running rugby and if people are going to kill the ball, they are stopping the entertainment we can give."

One wonders, though, if England recognise quick ball. So much is held in the back row of a scrum, which is not dominant, that their backs are left with nowhere to go. The direct channel would give Matthew Dawson some opportunities and would, at the very least, leave the decision-making in the hands of the half backs rather than with the back row, whose vision is necessarily more limited.

England must hope that Paul Grayson has had his one bad match of the season. He

turned left for Gwyn Jones, Wayne Proctor and Leigh Davies to send Taylor over.

Underwood's try gave England their 7-5 interval advantage, and when Justin Thomas was casual about his clearance, Guscott charged the kick down and ran on to score. With Grayson finding his range at last and the England forwards beginning to rumble, England should have seized the game; instead Carling left with a recurrence of a knee injury and their aspirations dwindled.

At 21-8 they should have buried Wales. Instead an appalling drop-out by Grayson left Wales with a midfield scrum and the chance of a try, taken with alacrity by Howley through a gap in the English wall. "We have got a Welsh team playing not just for each other but for the Welsh nation and if they get behind us we can take anyone on at home," Kevin Bowring, their coach, said. Even Scotland?

Wales, recognising the need to keep the ball as far away from the England pack as possible, attempted little off the back row yet Taylor was one of the most influential players on the field. All their kicking was away from the opposing forwards, including the kick-off, and Arwel Thomas as provided the game's magical moment when he tapped a kickable penalty, looked to a void on his right and, then

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Tottenham deny charge with persuasive defence



Sheringham: came near to breaking the deadlock

Manager's analysis short on knowledge of English

Southampton 2
Everton 2

By IVO TENNANT

FOOTBALL managers, like cricket coaches, do not need to have made a name for themselves as players. Roy Evans was given a handful of first team appearances by Liverpool and yet gains the respect that is his due. Dave Merrington's playing career belongs in the appendix to some out-of-print almanac.

Here, though, was a man whom Alan Ball a front-rank footballer, though able enough to become his assistant at Southampton. When a successor was required in the summer, Lawrie McMenemy told the club's directors that Merrington was their man and their manager. He could hardly have had more emphatic commendations than that.

The enthusiasm that this palpably straightforward man brings to management has been heightened by the fact that his opportunity has come well into his middle years. Before Ball departed, he was little known. Now, at the end of one of his post-match pronouncements, it is impossible not to comprehend what he represents.

Merrington talks of his players needing to pull their pistols out of their holsters and of the game having to pay for Margaret Thatcher's belief that

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an individual has to look after himself. His giddy discourse continued as he lauded Southampton's players for their performance. This was, he said, "A typically English game of end-to-end football."

Indeed it was. It was a match full of technical errors, misplaced passes, balls thumped upfield and an inability to beat offside traps, all masked by four goals in the second half and performances by Le Tissier and Kanchelskis that set them apart.

In England, a match strewn with mistakes is perceived as thrilling if it finishes as a draw with four goals scored in a frenzied climax. Southampton's equaliser, Magilton volleying past Southall, was seemingly a cracker. Yet the ball reached him through the kind of misplaced header that would be scoffed at on the Continent.

It was all too physical, too frenetic, too English. None of this particularly disconcerted Le Tissier, whom Merrington feels is enjoying his football again, or Kanchelskis. "A classic counter-puncher in the modern game," as Joe Royle, his manager, called him. The way in which he laid on Everton's goals for Stuart and Horne justified the description. That was not always the case with every summation on Saturday.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1) D Bousant — J. Dodd, R Hall, K Monkou S. Cheron — M Le Tissier, B Verlone, J. Magilton, G Wallace, A. Kanchelskis (sub: M. Odeley, S. Bannin, N Shuprak). **EVERTON (4-5-1)** N Southall — M Johnson, S. Horne, D. Wilson, A. Kanchelskis — A. Kanchelskis, B Horne, J. Parkin, G. Stuart, A. Limpert (sub: P. Rees, D. Ferguson, R. Elleray).

In the field of Derek Hatton and the late Beswick Braddock, sending your child to a politically incorrect school is less heinous than passing to the wrong team at Anfield. Tottenham Hotspur cleverly forced Liverpool to do this rather a lot during a tense goalless draw on Saturday.

Because Anfield is also an arena that eschews the premise that competitive sport is harmful to the development of character, dissatisfaction reached a crescendo after an hour when the home supporters were hooting at their team, never mind its second position in the FA Carling Premiership. Bill Shankly's absurd maxim — pre-Heyzel — that the game is more important than life or death hung uncomfortably in the air.

Here, in fact, was a marvellously disputed match, in which the collective goalscoring abilities of Fowler and Collymore for Liverpool and Armstrong and Sheringham for Tottenham were continuously de-

nied. Frustrating, but still fascinating fun for all 90 minutes, during which there were 18 scoring chances or half-chances: 11 to Liverpool, seven to Tottenham.

The level of tactical intelligence by both teams and a simultaneous intensity of pressure on the individual in possession were extreme. Tottenham defended ruggedly, the veteran Mabbett in particular, smothering Fowler and Collymore through the middle and funneling back to force Jones, McAteer and McManaman on the flanks to go wide. Intercepted passes were an inevitability.

The frustration of the crowd was equally understandable. Victory over Aston Villa at Villa Park in midweek had fuelled speculation that Liverpool might somehow overtake Newcastle United in the coming weeks, so that to slip back to third place was a severe antidrama. Yet there was no discredit. Tottenham, with the more dangerous moments, might have won. The

man of the match, if not Mabbett, was Armstrong.

If there was a criticism of Liverpool it was that Barnes and Thomas, in the centre of a midfield line of five, occasionally seemed weary; that the final pass around the edge of the Tottenham penalty area was occasionally misplaced; and that McManaman, so exciting on the run, and McAteer finished inaccurately. Such is the cost of competent opposition, though McManaman's lack of firepower may have disappointed the watching Terry Venables. England urgently need a midfield goalscorer to replace Platt.

The main criticism, however, was of the officials. One of the finesse, for instance, watching from a distance of no more than a few yards, could see nothing wrong in Babits having both arms locked around Armstrong tighter than a sumo wrestler. Such illegal practice has become commonplace and almost ignored by officials.

As for Stephen Lodge, the Barnsley referee, he ran beaverishly up and down the centre of the field attempting to keep pace with the shuttlecock play, and repeatedly managed to obstruct the line of passing movement. Here was a definitive illustration of the need in the modern game for a two-referee system to reduce the physical burden and double refereeing vision.

The first glaring opening fell to Tottenham after a quarter of an hour. At the other end, Walker had just saved low and comfortably from Collymore. Now Fox put Armstrong away on the right, and his early low cross flashed in front of James five yards out. Sheringham came sliding

feet first and failed to make contact by only inches.

Shortly before half-time, Tottenham might again have taken the lead. Campbell, a few yards outside the penalty area, fed a sharp pass to Armstrong, who swivelled to take the ball round the advancing James. The ball ran clear but the spin from a deflection of James carried the ball too far left and an open goal went begging.

Once more Liverpool had cause to breathe thankfully eight minutes into the second half. Sinton's curling, lofted cross was powerfully met by Armstrong no more than four yards out. A 40,000 crowd was looking for the ball in the back of the net before they realised that James had made the most spectacular of reflex saves.

Now Liverpool began to wind up the pressure — and the frustration. They crowded around Tottenham's penalty area but could find no way through. A sizzling drive from 27 yards out by Collymore caused Walker

to blink as he instinctively parried the shot. McManaman, breaking free on the left, shot weakly.

With two minutes remaining, Tottenham again held victory in their hand. Armstrong's run on the left had McAteer and Wright trailing; he cut inside, let rip right-footed and James did well to turn the shot away for a corner. In the last gasp, consecutive shots by McAteer were held by Walker and flew wide of the far post.

Tottenham's performance confirmed the quality established by their manager, Gerry Francis, though they continue to miss the influence of Anderson. The title may be out of reach for Liverpool, but some opponents, unlike Tottenham, can expect to be destroyed.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2) D James — J Spiller, M. Walker, S. Collymore, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, S. Sinton, R. Jones (sub: I. Fox, S. Barnes) — R. Fowler, S. Collymore.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) I. Walker — D. McAteer, G. McManaman, C. Campbell, S. Lodge — R. Wright, S. Jones (sub: S. Fletcher, 75) C. Wilson, A. Sinton — C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham

Referee: S. Lodge

Clough refreshed after Pontins break

Simon Barnes on
Manchester City's
2-0 win against
relegation rivals

How would Liverpool reserves go in the FA Carling Premiership? You would have to fancy their chances of avoiding relegation at the very least — certainly more than Queens Park Rangers and, perhaps, more than Manchester City. There is a huge amount of talent, as well as money, playing regularly in the Pontins League.

It is the same with all the big clubs. While journeys battle for Premiership survival with the lesser clubs as they visit the big stages of Anfield and Old Trafford, various sublime talents costing millions purvey their out-of-favour skills in secret. It is our loss.

So it was with Nigel Clough, once considered the connoisseur's footballer, once the player on whom Liverpool and England would build their future. Some 2½ years back, he cost £2.3 million to move from his father's former club, Nottingham Forest, to Liverpool. A man apparently custom-made to fulfil the long Liverpool tradition of quiet excellence. Yet he fell out of favour with a change of management. He became Pontins Man.

The situation, hardly unique, is created by the lack of parity of competition in the Premiership. Big clubs don't let their big assets go easily, there being big money tied up in them. And, sometimes, they just do not want to have them playing for rivals. Keeping a good player Pontins-bound can be a sound tactical move in the increasingly loony world of the top half-dozen clubs.

And so we have been deprived of our connoisseur's player, deprived of all those neat touches and thoughtful passes. A cerebral player, Clough. But he has been rescued by Alan Ball and Manchester City, who paid £1 million for him. While Clough took a painful cut from his reported £5,000-a-week Liverpool wages.

At least he is playing Premiership football again, and we are watching him do it. More than two years at Liverpool and only 38 league appearances. Football talent is



Clough, back in the spotlight after his move to Manchester City, scores on his home debut against Queens Park Rangers. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

precious thing because it lasts for so short a time — say, ten years. Clough has just wasted 20 per cent of his footballing life and he is now 29.

The move is part of Ball's top-to-bottom reshaping of City. In less than a season, there have been 22 signings and goings at the club. He has signed seven players for a total of £7 million, getting £2 million back on sales. All this while Liverpool spent £8.5 million on a single player.

For the relegation six-pointer against Rangers on Saturday, City had three players making a home debut as starters: Clough, the German international left back Frontzeck, and a teenaged winger, Martin Phillips.

And there was Clough, looking as ever, like an acuary in unaccustomed shorts rather than a professional footballer.

Speed of thought and defensiveness have always been his assets: his lack of speed over the ground is almost as famous as his father's personality.

Not one of life's rebels, Clough. Son of a tumultuous and overwhelming papa, he chose to follow his father's profession at his father's club.

Clough père tells a story about an opposing park-team player who threw a cup of tea over his

Nigel, purely because Nigel was his son. You could take that. But Clough Sr had the man arrested, took him to court and fined. Dad, can't we deal with this thing quietly?

It was pleasant to see Clough purveying his diffident skills at Maine Road — and a goal to greet the occasion, too.

It came with a cross from young Phillips. Sommer came out for it, tipped his punch and it fell for Clough, who reached back, turned and pulled it into goal, a single touch and a low, neat, unemphatic shot. A Clough goal through and through.

City's second came from a

free header from a dozen yards; you are not supposed to score from them. Symons got fair contact on the ball and Rangers just watched it go in. They have a doomed look about them.

Not so City. While this is still a team in which the parts are greater than the sum, there were plenty of good things to enjoy — this, despite a ludicrous, scene-stealing performance from the referee, who made 11 bookings, two for poor Dicchio, the Rangers substitute, who had to go.

Frontzeck is a fearsome as well as a foolbelling defender; the Georgian, Kinkladze, is a

one-man revival of the term "to dribble" and as for that teenaged winger — well, what a debut. He is 19; he was young and infallible and altogether immortal for an afternoon. If he trains on, he will be quite a player. I wonder how much City will sell him for. Watch out for the Pontins Train, young fellow.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1) E. Inman — N. Sommer, M. Phillips, G. Fitzwilliam, G. Kinkladze, S. Lomas (sub: G. Creasy, G. Somers, 42) — N. Symons (sub: J. Somers, 39) — S. Yates, A. McDonald, D. M. Fletcher, C. Barker, N. Quigley (sub: M. Hately, 78); H. Kennedy, B. Allen (sub: K. Galien, 62).

Referee: G. Poll

West Ham find an attractive route to safety

West Ham United 1
Nottingham Forest 0

By ALYSON RUDD

WHEN Kris Akabusi, at the launch of a £20 million campaign to promote London as a tourist attraction, said the capital could boast theatres, restaurants and football clubs, the best being West Ham United, the organisers must have groaned at the thought of Japanese tourists shuffling towards Upton Park searching in vain for Gary Lineker and gazing in horror at the grubby high street before catching the first flight to Paris.

A week ago, when the air at Upton Park reeked of relegation, their concern would have been justified. Now it wafts around like copious amounts of perfume. West Ham have signed, on loan from Sporting Lisbon, Dani, the most good-looking footballer in the world.

As he moved away from the substitute's bench to begin warming up on Saturday, women teetered on tiptoe straining to catch a glimpse of the exceptionally pretty 19-year-old Portugal international. He only played for eight minutes, but quickly acknowledged his role as a tourist attraction by attempting to chip the goalkeeper from the halfway line.

This was probably not what Sporting Lisbon had in mind when they sent Dani to London to gain some maturity. Poor performances by the Portuguese club had put pressure on Dani to keep on saving the day, pressure he found difficult to handle.

Fortunately for Dani, West Ham have suddenly embraced glamour and will not rely too heavily on him. They have also signed Slaven Bilic, the outstanding Croatia defender, and Ilija Dumitrescu, the underrated Romania forward.

It was Williamson, 22, a product of the youth policy, who dominated this game. Playing unusually, in his favoured central role, he tore Nottingham Forest apart. It was his pass that induced the error from Cooper that allowed Slater to score the decisive goal.

West Ham no longer look like relegation fodder, although the real test will come over the next fortnight when they play two London derbies away from home and then Newcastle United.

One other tourist attraction at Upton Park, their Super Screen System, is the most unintentionally entertaining of its type.

"Player injured" its graphic screamed when all 22 were happily on their feet. "We are not worthy" a bowing Pinocchio cartoon informed us when the ball rolled unimpressively out of play for a throw-in. However, if West Ham maintain their momentum there will be plenty of sides discovering, as Forest did, that they are indeed not worthy.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2) L. Mikkelson, M. Brown, M. Peiper, S. Peacock, D. O'Brien, R. Slater (sub: A. Whitehead, 90min), J. Cooper, S. Cooper, S. Cooper, S. Cooper, R. Slater, P. Cooper, J. McAllister (sub: I. Pollard, 37), M. Paulsson, P. Tait, J. Salako — N. Whelan, D. Dublin, S. Dunn.

Referee: K. Burge

Shearer plays to strengths

Blackburn Rovers 3
Bolton Wanderers 1

By MARK HODKINSON

A FOOTBALLER'S strength cannot be quantified. It is not about the hardest shot or quickest feet, but the barely discernible traits such as knee and thigh in emphatic harmony or a midriff that expands to a high ball past a defender.

Alan Shearer is the modern embodiment of this covert but imperial strength. Bolton Wanderers played a triad of centre backs on Saturday at Ewood Park but Shearer defied their honest brawn three times, often using their leaden muscle as a spiral staircase when it suited his needs.

Blackburn Rovers' largest crowd of the season lent its unequivocal support to a rare episode in the life of the FA Carling Premiership — a Lancashire derby aside from the biannual conflict of the Manchester City and United.

The Bolton supporters, a braying, seething assembly in the Darwen End, wanted the victory, probably more so than their team. Bolton might be going down, but their supporters covet the right to a parochial sneer.

With seven minutes remaining and Blackburn supporters

viewed the opening exchanges. Indeed, the centre of Arsenal's defence seemed to dissolve on contact with anything sky-blue. Seaman was called on to save spectacularly from Shaw and Whelan, and Dixon cleared Whelan's header from under his own crossbar — all in the first four minutes. When Jensen sent Wright through, it seemed

Coventry would rue those misses, but Ogrizovic smothered the shot.

The visitors took the lead when Whelan showed Wright how it should be done as he advanced into the area before clipping the ball over Seaman. There was a suspicion that the England goalkeeper had been

the uncertainty of Arsenal was exposed from the kick-off. "We might have been three up before they realised we were playing," was how Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said.

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Shearer: hat-trick

slow to leave his line. Presumably these situations are usually dealt with by Adams' raised arm. Seconds later, Helder went past Borrows and Bustos then crossed for Bergkamp, unmarked, to bullet an equalising header past Ogrizovic. Coventry in a nutshell.

Wright should have put Arsenal ahead when he was brought down after 51 minutes but his penalty was too central and Ogrizovic was there to meet it, as he was when Wright shot low after Merson gave his acting captain another clear run on goal.

Both teams went for victory, at one point six Coventry players were stranded upfield as Arsenal broke, but neither goalkeeper deserved to finish on a losing side.

"The scoreline could have been anything," Atkinson said, singling out his two most senior players. "We keep showing Gordon Str

Flying Frenchman makes a triumphant touchdown on his return to Selhurst Park

Cantona savouring lull after the storm

Wimbledon 2
Manchester United 4
By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE calm after the Selhurst Park storm of one year ago came to Eric Cantona on Saturday. There was evil afoot in the background, but Cantona had no part in it. He scored twice, he put himself at the service of his team, he roamed to find space, he tackled back, he lent his height to his defence, and throughout the afternoon the word best suited to his performance was composed.

Alex Ferguson, his manager, dismissed all talk of Cantona's return as trivial but Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager beleaguered by a list of absences running into double figures, was more effusive. "Cantona? He's got everything that's great about a player. He drifts in, ghosts in and out, making it almost impossible

South Africa triumph — 29
High-flying Stevenage — 29

to do anything about him. Some say he's a lesser player since he's come back, but I can't see that."

Perhaps, after all, the uniform dictates the mood. When Cantona lost self-control and assaulted an abusive spectator, he wore that dreadful black kit. This time he was in the proper colour, a veritable pimpernel in red, the player handed the captain's arm band when Steve Bruce had to go off to have 14 stitches inserted in his gashed fore-head, the result of meeting the elbow of Dean Holdsworth. But that only emphasised that United are such a big club compared to the remarkable family affair that is Wimbledon.

Wimbledon had had seven senior players under the surgeon's knife this season. Though they were angels on the field against United, they have previously compounded this loss with suspensions to Earle, Ekoju and Harford. A lesser team, a club of lesser spirit, would have folded even

more easily under a United team that regained second place in the FA Carling Premiership with this victory.

United have won on five out of their past six visits to this inaccessible south London club. The victory seemed assured in the four minutes before half-time when Cole, still seeming a misfit on a wavelength different from his colleagues, rose to head the first goal from Irwin's cross, and then Perry, the Wimbledon defender, added an own goal.

That description is harsh on Perry. First, the goal should be claimed by Beckham, whose tremendous free kick defeated Sullivan, the goalkeeper, crashed down from the cross-bar, and appeared to cross the line. When it rebounded, Perry did indeed head it back into his own net but the force used in his back by Keane should have made his resultant misfortune irrelevant.

Kinnear admitted that his Wimbledon was a "strangely submissive one before half-time. Once he had lectured them about their natural principles, the up-and-at-'em *esprit de corps*, they came out running, redefined as a 4-2-4 attacking unit."

Initially, it seemed, United could repeat them at their case, particularly with Gary Neville, the England right back, proving such a perceptive reader of the game at centre back.

Complacency crept in, however, and perseverance from Wimbledon was rewarded when Clarke clashed a lost ball, Kimble put it back into the United goalmouth and Gayle slid in to half-volley the ball past Schmeichel.

Then came Cantona's de-

nouement: three minutes after Wimbledon's goal he engineered and scored with a level of class that will live in the memory. He and Beckham exchanged passes up the right that were beyond the scope of Wimbledon, passes that ultimately led to a headed goal of great timing and bravery as Cantona stooped to meet the ball, ignoring the raised boot of Perry.

Behind the goal, where the majority of the 15,000 United supporters in an attendance of

25,380 were ecstatic, the police reacted as if in fear that the dreaded London supporter who had caused Cantona's moment of madness in 1995 had returned. Nor so the these supporters were friendly and admiring.

Wimbledon, however, were not inclined to tolerate that. They hit back in the proper manner when Keane sold his goalkeeper short with a poorly

timed header and Jason Euell — the next Ian Wright, according to Kinnear — stole between them to make the score 3-2. Inevitably, though, Cantona had the final sting.

Giggs began the counter-attack with breathtaking pace, Cole, for once, produced a measured return pass that Cantona brought down from shoulder height and Giggs, involved again, hit the ball



Cantona acknowledges the acclaim of his admirers at Selhurst Park after scoring his first goal against Wimbledon. Photograph: Marc Aspland

against Cunningham. It appeared to be heading involuntarily but the referee said it was a penalty and there was nothing to question about the impious nature, the nervous relish, with which Cantona despatched the ball from the penalty spot.

All that remained was the rancour surrounding the absence of Vinnie Jones. Kinnear says it is the parting of the

ways that Jones, once the embodiment of Wimbledon cameraderie, insists on leaving. "The Secret Squirrel mob," said Kinnear, referring to agents, "have been at work again. They and small fry [as he called Barry Fry, the Birmingham City manager], are trying to steal Jones away before my back. He can go but I've made it clear that £300,000 is a derisory figure."

In a competition with so limited a membership as the Bell's Scottish League premier division, failure is always near at hand. Since it features only ten clubs, there is no gentle stretch of mid-table pastureland in which teams can calmly live out their days in safety and obscurity.

Heart of Midlothian, for instance, fought relegation a year ago and, early this season, seemed set for a re-match. Recent form has, however, brought six victories in seven games and sped them into third place. The superiority of the Old Firm is entrenched, but the standards of the remainder of the division only cover a narrow span.

In consequence, small improvements in a side can have dramatic consequences. Equally, it is always a short journey to the relegation zone. Last season Falkirk entertained thoughts of qualifying for Europe. Now, they are seized by a dread of tumbling out of the premier division.

The upheavals and reversals of fortune exist by design, since the premier division was created, in 1974, expressly to create a greater number of significant matches. The haunted demeanour of virtually every manager testifies to the relevance of the games.

The tumult, though, can be repellent as well as engrossing. John Lambie, the Falkirk manager, has alleged that a supporter tried to drive him off the road as he made his way home after the shaming defeat by Stenhousemuir in the Scottish Cup on Tuesday. The driver in question then identified himself and claimed that he had "only" been trying to gesture and yell at Lambie.

The manager has become accustomed to abuse of late, even though it is usually delivered while he is stationary on the bench at Brockville. Falkirk are second bottom of the premier division, but lowly league positions and even relegation are hardly novelties. Much more grave are the accusations he faces over a deterioration of style.

Lambie replaced Jim Jefferies, now with Hearts, last summer in an appointment viewed with misgivings even at the time. Partick Thistle had been sustained in the premier division for three years under Lambie, but there was little affection for the manner in which his teams played.

At Brockville he has also been blamed for coarsening the team he inherited from Jefferies. Rumbustiousness, however, will, for the moment, be tolerated if it leads Falkirk to safety. After the embarrassment against Stenhousemuir, the squad held discussions that may have cleared the air only after first turning it blue. Despite falling behind to Kilmarnock on Saturday, Falkirk eventually won 4-2.

In addition, Lambie had the satisfaction of seeing both the players he signed on Wednesday, Tony Finnigan and Dominic Iorva, score on their debuts. If there was respite for him, though, torment elsewhere continued as before. Hibernian, after a 2-1 defeat at Celtic Park, have now recorded just one victory in the past ten matches. Alex Miller's team, who had broken out of prolonged defending to take the lead, have cause to grumble about the outcome.

When Pierre van Hooidonk scored the equaliser, Jim Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, was off the field receiving treatment. An outfield player, Darren Jackson, deputising for him, fumbled the ball to allow Celtic to score.

The game, however, persistently flirted with the bizarre. When Leighton first tried to return to the pitch, Sandy Roy, the referee, stopped him because his cut was still bleeding, but Jackson had already taken his goalkeeper's jersey off and come to the halfway line. The official then restarted the game with nobody between the posts, but as Celtic prepared to score, a linesman stopped play.

Paul McStay, who later scored the winner, reported that the linesman had raised his flag because the goalkeeper was not in place. "That's a new rule to me," he said wryly. If Scottish football is a grave business, it still manages to be ludicrous on occasion.

Falkirk's signings pay quick dividend for Lambie

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

Newcastle cancel Wednesday's insurance

Newcastle United 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By PETER HALL

THIRTEEN is lucky for some. With Sheffield Wednesday providing supine opposition on Saturday, Newcastle United were able to avoid the consequences of a halting performance, goals from Lee Ferdinand and Lee Clark ensuring that the Premiership leaders' 100 per cent home record now stretches to 13 matches.

But until the goals, an untidy affair was in danger of going down as the game of the thrice-taken throw-in. A bad pitch and Paul Danson, the referee, offered as much hindrance to the leaders' progress as Wednesday. "We had to cope with an awful referee

today, both sides did," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said.

Of the referee more later, but Pleat knew that Danson's performance, disturbing as it was, made no difference to the final result. "I think we made them work for it, it wasn't one of their champagne days in terms of football," Pleat claimed, and with Nicol sitting in front of the back four, there was a tangled green thicket set up for Newcastle to penetrate. But as an attacking force Wednesday were dire — in 90 minutes Strickland had to make one serious save, from Bright.

Wednesday's better performers were all in the back six. Above all there was Lee Walker. The sight of him moving smoothly into overdrive to get out of trouble with a burst of speed brought memories flooding back of the days when the chant "You'll never beat Lee Walker" resounded round the football grounds of England.

It is sometimes said that one of the England team's problems is that there are no good central defenders. While Walker continues to play so well in such a poor side, that is nonsense. "He's an insurance policy," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "With that pace of his, he's the perfect cover. Nobody else would have got back to Lee Ferdinand that time."

But if Walker made the saving tackle of the match as Ferdinand bore down on goal, and Wednesday's packed defence ensured there were bodies in the way of several shots, for much of the time Newcastle's problems were self-induced.

And then there was Danson, who held centre stage from the moment early on when the ball went out just inside the Newcastle half. Barton edged forward and edged forward, finally taking the throw five yards into Wednesday's half. Foul throw for taking it from the wrong place.

Nolan picked the ball up, studiously refused to look at the referee, now gesticulating furiously at the right place, and threw it from the same spot. Foul throw — and high fares. But if Danson was being pedantic, he was not wrong, as they say in those parts.

His later actions were less comprehensible. Afterton just beat Gillespie in one tackle by a fraction. Afterton got his foot in first and kicked the ball away, as Gillespie, who was going at full tilt in pursuit, arrived and caught Afterton. No malice involved — indeed at the pace, it was unavoidable. But Danson got out the yellow card.

If that suggested that he is a referee who knows the rules, but doesn't know the game, it paled beside a later decision as Watts, on a foray forward, went past Beresford and was sent crashing with an embarrassingly clumsy tackle. Knowing Danson's reputation, everyone looked at one another nervously. A yellow card seemed the least Beresford could expect. Danson gave a goal kick.

Wednesday Wednesday (4-1-3-2; K. Stewart, P. Adams, J. W. Walker, I. Nolan, S. Houghton, D. Woods, M. Doyle, G. Whittingham — M. Bright, D. Hirst (sub D. Kovacevic, 27)).

Referee: P. Danson.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	24	57	+28	LWWWW
2 Manchester United	25	49	+27	WLNWW
3 Liverpool	25	46	+26	WWWWWW
4 Aston Villa	24	42	+13	LWWWW
5 Tottenham	25	42	+9	LWWLD
6 Blackpool	25	41	+13	WDDWW
7 North Forest	25	40	+1	LWLWL
8 Chelsea	25	38	+5	WMDWW
9 Arsenal	25	38	+8	LWLWD
10 Everton	25	37	+6	LWDWW
11 Leeds	25	35	+3	DWLLL
12 Middlesbrough	25	33	-6	LLL
13 West Ham	24	29	-9	LLLWW
14 Sheffield Wednesday	25	25	-5	LWDLW
15 Southampton	25	25	-11	DLWDD
16 Manchester City	25	24	-18	WLDDW
17 Wimbledon	25	24	-15	WLWWL
18 Coventry	21	17	-10	DLDLD
19 QPR	25	18	-20	LLL
20 Bolton	25	16	-25	LWLWL
Weekly change	Up	Stayed the same	Down	

Neal's passion stirs Cardiff revival hopes

Cardiff City 3
Doncaster Rovers 2

By PAT GISSLER

ANYONE wanting to know why such a distinguished footballer as Phil Neal should put his reputation on the line running such a rundown club as Cardiff City received the answer not long into his first match as the substitutes' bench.

Would he have made a difference? Probably not. Yorkie, of Aston Villa, possesses all the ingredients of a modern-day striker. He treks wide when needed, defends when possible and displays a keen eye for a goal, as demonstrated in the twelfth and 22nd minutes.

Wilkinson maintained a defiant, prickly stance. "I had nine players out and it was a question of seeing who was available and where I could play them," he said. "I thought the team would do better without Tomaz. He was concerned at the amount of defending he would have to do but I can't if I'm not playing."

Tomaz Brolin cut a lonely, disillusioned figure, leading the skips on to the team coach at Villa Park. That Leeds United had stumbled to a comprehensive FA Carling Premiership defeat was irrelevant; it was the fact that Dyer removed the legs from under Mortimer only — astonishingly — to get away with it. Everybody bar Rodger Gifford, the referee, and his linesmen agreed that Dyer should have been penalised. "It was a penalty," Curbishley said. "I've seen the replay and they got it wrong. That's the way it goes."

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, forced his team into a temporary exile. After only two months in England Brolin had been consigned to the role of baggage carrier.

"I was left out, it's very disappointing," he said. "It's the manager's decision, he wanted the team to play a certain way. Perhaps he doesn't think I'm good enough. I need time to fit in but I can't if I'm not playing."

Ominously, Brolin, 24, then contemplated the wider implications. In the comforting knowledge that he or his streetwise agent had insisted on a get-out clause in the deal that had taken him from Parma to Elland Road. "At the end of the season, I have to decide whether I'm staying or not," he said. "I cannot see into the future. The decision has to be made in May but



Brolin: exiled

Charlton Athletic 0
Crystal Palace 0

By RUSSELL KENDRICK

THE Valley is alive with expectation. Charlton Athletic lie second in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division and Alan Curbishley, their manager, has signed an extended contract — as have Rufus, Stuart, Newton and Robinson, some of his highly-prized starlets. The solitary spectre at the southeast London club is the prospect of playing in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

White it would prove a glamorous and exciting experience — and nobody could deny them the right that it would be too rewarding. Charlton are not yet ready to compete with the big boys on a regular basis, for all their blossoming talent, and a scruffy stalemate against Crystal Palace yesterday did, too. In flurries, it was pleasing to watch, but it was still light years away from the gap between Endsleigh and Premiership pastures.

Promising approach play proliferated, from both sides, but much of it came to nought, with the final touch glaringly absent. Pitcher cleared off the ball from a goal-bound shot by Bowyer in the first half and Dyer drove weakly at Salmon in the 88th minute, when it

appeared easier to slot the ball past him, and thus the game remained goalless.

Charlton were also denied what appeared to be the most undeniably of penalty awards in the final minute, when Dyer removed the legs from under Mortimer only — astonishingly — to get away with it. Everybody bar Rodger Gifford, the referee, and his linesmen agreed that Dyer should have been penalised. "It was a penalty," Curbishley said. "I've seen the replay and they got it wrong. That's the way it goes."

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Tomaz Brolin cut a lonely, disillusioned figure,

Guilt is first hazard on round-the-world voyage

By JAMES CAPSTICK

SURVIVAL as a round-the-world amateur yachtsman will require me to face up to and acknowledge the dangers of what I am about to do, even the naivety of my original decision but then forget all that and get on with it. My defence for participating in the BT Global Challenge Race which starts in September fluctuates between the flippancy — it seemed like a good idea at the time — and the profound: it is exactly what I have waited for all my life, or at least since becoming a "thirtysomething".

I used this argument to justify the serious business of abandoning my family for nine months, re-mortgaging the house, selling the car and attracting unwanted attention from the bank manager. I have come to terms with my persistent guilt about all this,

thanks mainly to my long-suffering wife, Tracey, who actually understands me — a rare and sometimes dangerous thing that a woman who understands a man. Our two boys — Stephen, ten, and Christopher, seven — will be in good hands.

For me, the recent crew announcements at the Boat Show in London changed what had been an abstract idea into an imminent reality. Having enjoyed an impromptu get-together on the Guinness stand and a bit of "bonding" at the BT Global Challenge crew reception, I was feeling quite mellow and at peace with my fellow yachtsmen.

As the announcement of crews neared, I found myself looking at my fellow would-be circumnavigators, not with admiration and humility, but fear and trepidation. I have enjoyed sailing with many of

WHEN Chay Blyth announced the BT Global Challenge two years ago, he had 6,000 applicants for 165 places on the 1996 fleet, each of which cost the successful entrant £18,750. The Times reserved two berths — one for a man and one for a woman — and offered bursaries towards their costs and the chance to write about their experiences in the paper.

Readers were asked to submit an essay on why they wanted to take part in a tough yacht race against the

prevailing winds and currents. Anyone aged between 21 and 60 was eligible. From 2,087 entrants, 12 were selected for a training weekend to decide who should fill the

berths. James Capstick, a 37-year-old Surrey police officer, and Lucy Duncan, a 35-year-old Nottingham midwife, were chosen.

The race starts from Southampton in September, when the fleet of 67-foot yachts under the guidance of professional skippers, sets sail for Rio de Janeiro at the start of a 30,000-mile adventure, which will take the crews round Cape Horn and across the dangerous Southern Ocean. The finish is at Southampton in June 1997.

them during training over the past two years, but there are one or two who, after five days bashing round the Channel, fill me with nothing less than murderous intent. I am sure this feeling says more about me than it does them, but there it is. I'm only human.

At last, the moment of truth arrived as Chay Blyth and the overhead projection told us our teams and that I was to crew on *Ocean Rover*. I have only sailed with one or two of my new crew before and while enjoying a small glass of wine and a chicken leg at a local

hotel courtesy of *Ocean Rover*, we had an opportunity for a chat.

I am sure we were all sizing

one another up, making judgments about each other's strength and weaknesses. I had a weather eye open,



Capstick's epic journey

The easiest to spot are the potential foredeck gorillas — they tend to have a glassy, faraway look in their eyes and are often accompanied by "helpers" in a long, white coat. Necessary sailing skills can be taught; Challenge Business (the organisers of the race) have proved that beyond doubt, but it is something else to change a personality and, on our trip, you cannot run or hide. You pray you will not let yourself, or more importantly, anyone else down.

The sponsor, the Rover Group, is totally committed to the project and that is going to be very important. With the amount of support and backing the boat will have, winning should be the easy part. Undoubtedly the most important person on board has to be the skipper. *Ocean Rover*'s Paul Bennett is very competitive and if anyone can get us first over the winning line next

year, he can. However, my wife did question my unflappable confidence in him when I late that night, after the crew announcements, she turned out to pick Paul and myself up from a railway station somewhere in darkest Surrey, as a result of a navigational error between Earls Court and Waterloo station!

What next? Sitting here, attempting to write my first piece for *The Times*, I am suddenly reminded of a past feeling of trepidation. As a young police constable sitting in a Crown Court waiting room to give evidence for the first time, I remember being wound up by the old sweep who had done it all before. It would send a shiver down my spine as they solemnly explained how "your every word will be put under the microscope and examined, son".

Sailing the sun and ocean has its attractions.

Undefeated 'one-punch wonder' from Liverpool has look of a champion

Powerhouse Neary makes his mark

 By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BOXING may have found a new Colin Jones. Since the Welshman, who twice came close to lifting the world title, retired some ten years ago, the sport has been waiting for a puncher from the lower divisions who can take out an opponent with one blow. Shee Neary, a little-known light-welterweight from Liverpool, could be just such a man. Unbeaten in 16 outings, he has demolished 15 of his opponents in quick time.

The last man to feel the power of his fists was Terry Southernland, of Cincinnati. Southernland was knocked out in the second round of their bout at Everton Park Sports Centre on Saturday. The American, who has boxed against some top opponents, had been on the floor only once in his 22-bout career. He had lost two bouts and one of those defeats was at the hands of Keiske Banks, the Olympic champion.

"He is very strong," Southernland said. "No one has hit me so hard. I boxed well at the outset but got careless and he was able to capitalise on where I missed up. That's a good fighter. He sticks up well again, the fighters I have met."

There is little doubt that the "Shamrock Express" is on course to lift the British and European titles. His manager, John Hyland, believes there is not a light-welterweight in Britain to stop him.

Charlie Atkinson, the boxing adviser to Central Television, said: "They keep running from him. You have seen something special. When he wants to take a man out he takes them out. He'll make a hole in those London guys."

Atkinson was right. Just before the end of the first round, Neary, who had been outboxed, suffered a cut by his eye. Tony Green, the referee told him: "I'm going to stop you at the end of this round."

Neary replied: "I'll stop it first."

True to his word, he trapped Southernland against the ropes and unleashed a right. It landed on the American's chin and deposited him flat on his back. Gary Newbon, head of sport at Central Television, was delighted. As ITV was looking for new talent, he had decided to check out the one-punch wonder.

Newbon said: "Neary is a

really exciting fighter, like a white Nigel Benn. We picked Southernland against the ropes and unleashed a right. It landed on the American's chin and deposited him flat on his back. Gary Newbon, head of sport at Central Television, was delighted. As ITV was looking for new talent, he had decided to check out the one-punch wonder.

Having turned professional at 23 after leaving the Army and without much amateur

experience, Neary is still a little raw. But he has a Tyson-like search-and-destroy determination and if he can adopt the Tyson head movements, he could become a good world-title prospect.

Atkinson believes, however, that it is his rawness that makes him exciting to watch and, no doubt, if he carries on knocking them over he will get high viewer ratings.

Britain's latest heavyweight

hope, Matthew Ellis looks destined to have as colourful and exciting a career as Billy Walker, some 30 years ago — but he could prove more successful. On the undercard, he knocked out Laurent Rouze, of France, in one round. Rouze was not much of an opponent, but this was only the first professional appearance of the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion. Nonetheless, it was

possible to see that the 15st 10lb six-footer from Blackpool is, unlike so many other British heavyweights, light on his feet and has quick hands. Most important, he is able to put combinations together.

He floored Rouze with a four-punch sequence. As Reg Gutteridge, the commentator, said about the French milkman: "Milkmen get up early, but this one's not going to put this round."

Anglers have watched with dismay as the list of abstraction applications has lengthened this winter. Among the most highly-publicised have been those by Yorkshire Water to take more from the rivers Wharfe and Ure, and by North West Water to take more from Windermere and Ullswater, thus lowering the levels of these lakes by several feet.

Wherever significant abstraction takes place — and it is now very common — the public debate is not about the need of people to have reliable water supplies, all sensible persons recognise this need. The debate is about the responsibility of the supplier in capturing and transporting it effectively and the need for the consumer not to be profligate. Either way, the niceties of argument matter little where the real crunch comes. Mostly out of sight and away from media focus, the effect on wildlife when water is drawn down, is the same.

Naturalists and conservationists everywhere are concerned about the threats posed by additional abstraction. No group, though, is more concerned than the anglers. Anglers are concerned not just with the fish which provide their sport but with the health of the whole aquatic environment.

Their legal arm, the Anglers' Conservation Association, has pursued hundreds of offending organisations through the courts and carried many a fight to the High Court to make the point. Those who fish, perhaps above all, know that when a river sickens or dies, it is a terrible thing.

The pattern, if abstraction anywhere is overdone, is broadly the same. It is seen at its most graphic on rivers, especially the bright, clean rivers in which fish such as trout can live; and it becomes most apparent in the context of the natural cycle which all rivers have.

Rivers depend for their flows on rain. Most rain falls in winter, least in summer and rivers rise and fall as a result. All life in rivers is governed by the seasonal fluctuations and has evolved to cope with them. It is for this reason that abstraction even in winter, when rivers are not at their lowest, can be damaging.

TROUT have evolved so that they spawn in winter, when an adequate supply of water is naturally available. They spawn by digging scoops in the stream-bed gravel, deposit their eggs in the scoops and then cover them over with more gravel.

The spawning places are where the flow is normally of such a pace that the water keeps the eggs free of silt and washed with oxygen. These spawning places tend to be in feeder streams, or in the shallower parts of the main river, or in places where springs well up strongly through a river bed.

If the water level is drawn down after the eggs have been laid — usually in January — the spawning beds can become silted through lack of flow. If the level is drawn down sufficiently, spawning

It is a terrible thing when a river sickens or dies

Runcorn buried by latest Hayles storm

By WALTER GAMMIE

RUNCORN must be heartily sick of the sight of Barry Hayles of Stevenage Borough. He scored three times against them in November when Stevenage won 8-0 at Canal Street and precipitated the departure of John Carroll from the Runcorn management. On Saturday, he crashed in another hat-trick against Runcorn as Stevenage won the return match at Broadhall Way 4-1.

The victory lifted Stevenage to within a point of Macclesfield Town at the top of the Vauxhall Conference with two matches in hand, and makes Hayles an even hotter property. Signed from Willesden Hawkeye, the Spartan League club, 18 months ago, Hayles has now scored 15 league goals in an attacking midfield role.

With Macclesfield's match against Northwich Victoria postponed, further heartening news for Stevenage came from Kingfield where Woking were held to a 1-1 draw by Bromsgrove Rovers. Despite losing ground at the head of the table, Woking could draw consolation from preserving that started in December 1994 even though they were without five regulars.

A crowd of 2,481 were drawn for the opening of the new stand that has brought Woking's stadium the A grading it needs to make it acceptable for the Endsleigh Insurance League. The shadow over Stevenage's success is

Desire makes crucial difference

Rob Hughes watches South Africa add another trophy to burgeoning collection

Mark Williams, a player struggling to make any impression with Wolverhampton Wanderers, shared Saturday in Soweto with Nelson Mandela, whose mark in history is indelible. Williams, purchased by Graham Taylor for a £300,000 Wolves reserve, came off the substitutes' bench to score twice in two minutes so that South Africa could break the obduracy of Tunisia and add the African Nations Cup to the rugby and cricket triumphs in the new South Africa's list of sporting achievements. Those, President Mandela believes, symbolise more than anything else the quest for unity after apartheid.

The South Africans were not the most talented footballers on their continent, but they beat the best teams by a series of advantages — by the huge, predominantly black support, by 1,763 metres of altitude, by obliging refereeing (though not in the final which was well refereed by the Ugandan, Charles Massambe). Above all, they had an advantage named desire.

"It's just from feelings," Williams, 29, had said before the kick-off, "the feeling inside us players for South Africa." Feelings indeed. It appeared instinct that thrust Williams forward to powerfully head the first goal moments after he had taken the lead through Dean Burns in the first half. Andy Jones brought Canvey Island after Dermot Gallagher, the Premiership referee, had awarded a penalty for a foul on the striker in the 77th minute.

President Mandela and King Goodwill Zwelithini wave to the crowd before the African Nations Cup final



As Mandela stepped down to the field, flanked by F W de Klerk and by the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, there were reverberations of the message that sport is unity in a nation which once divided sport on colour lines. Neil Tovey, the white captain whose replica shirt was worn by the black president, offered the trophy to Mandela. Mandela kissed it briefly, touched it, and then like the grandfather he is urged Tovey and "The Boys" to take their place in the sunshine of South African celebration. They had to dance their way through the security cordon, the reality that the country still faces a difficult transition, but as their high spirits lapped the stadium, one knew that we could never separate sport from politics, nor regard playing games as a frivolous activity.

President Mandela and King Goodwill Zwelithini wave to the crowd before the African Nations Cup final

Report highlights how industry is losing almost £4m per year

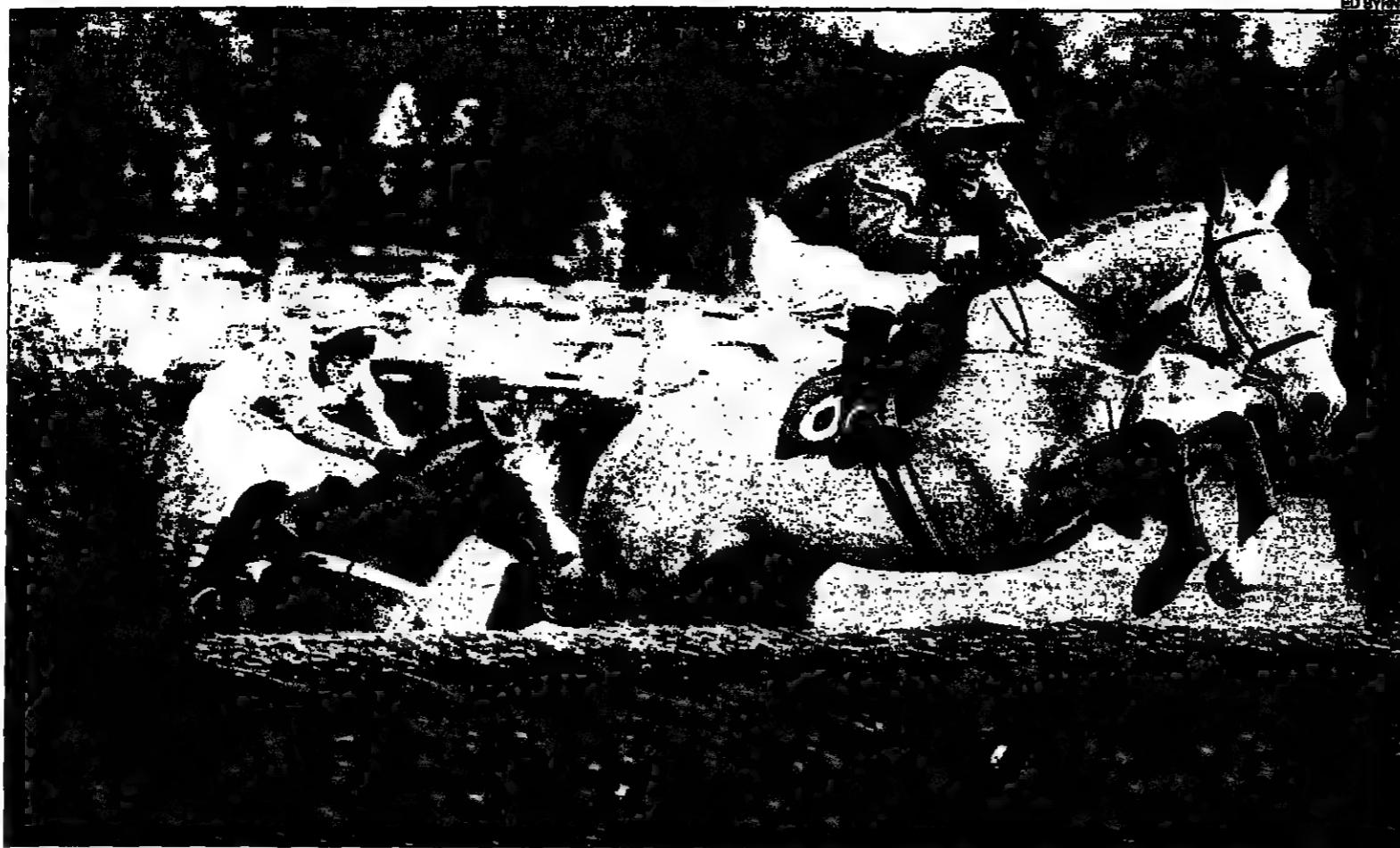
Ladbrokes denounces fixture list

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

RACING'S much-vaunted "customer-friendly" fixture list is a financial disaster, which is preventing the sport from earning almost £4 million a year in extra revenue, according to a detailed report published yesterday.

The emphasis placed by the British Horseracing Board (BHB) on scheduling meetings when the race-going customer finds it easier to attend — particularly evenings — has had a devastating impact on off-course betting turnover, and thereby levvy proceeds, which underpin racing's finances.

The report, produced by Ladbrokes, accuses the BHB



Senor El Betratti puts in a fine leap on his way to victory in the Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown on Saturday.

of ignoring "the overwhelming evidence that the so-called 'customer-friendly' fixture list is depressing turnover to an extent that it is costing racing substantially more in levy than is being gained at the turnstiles."

At the heart of Ladbrokes' cogently argued case is the damage being done by switching meetings from weekday afternoons — when there are plenty of punters in betting shops — to evenings and Sundays, when the premises are virtually deserted. To make matters worse, the introduction of summer jump meetings, at the expense of fixtures during the winter, has also proved unpopular.

Ladbrokes has produced telling financial statistics, culled from the Racecourse Association and BHB, to prove that increased turnstile revenue pales into insignificance compared to the loss of levy income.

"Changes to the midweek

fixture programme which has increased by nearly 100 per cent the number of afternoons with only two fixtures — 122 days in 1995 compared to 64 in 1993 — has resulted in a loss of some £1.5 million in levy yield in 1995," the report states.

The loss of 102 third fixtures on weekday afternoons in 1995 will result in an estimated levy shortfall of over £3 million."

Ladbrokes has also produced detailed proposals for changing the fixture list in 1997, which it claims would increase levy yield by £3,720,000 a year — and help to reverse the 30 per cent decline in bookmaking profits.

In an attempt to maximise racing's revenue through off-course betting turnover, Ladbrokes recommends that the Levy Board should support three race meetings every

weekday afternoon and four on Saturdays and Bank Holidays; 96 evening meetings compared to 190 this year; and the same number of Sunday meetings — 30.

Summer jump racing has not proved successful for racing's finances and the two-year trial should not be repeated.

by Peter Beaumont, is coughing and will not

rely on his chance.

Kim Bailey, the trainer of Master Oats, said: "Master Oats might as well stay over there but we're not able to do anything." John Edwards, Monsieur Le Cure's trainer, was unconcerned and reported his gelding was in good shape.

Today's fixture at Newton Abbot is subject to a 6.45am inspection because of frost, while

Fonthill, also scheduled for today, was called off yesterday. Carlisle's meeting tomorrow depends on an inspection this afternoon.

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British pair lodges in Ireland

MASTER OATS and Monsieur Le Cure, the British-trained declarations for yesterday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, are to stay in Ireland after the postponement of the race because of frost. The pair will lodge at the track until the race is run on Sunday.

The meeting at Leopardstown was cancelled

yesterday morning after the frost failed to thaw. Ireland's most prestigious steeplechase was also delayed by a week two years ago,

when Jodam gained the second of his three consecutive victories. But the gelding, trained

by Peter Beaumont, is coughing and will not

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Elbief, Henderson Administration Group, Mid Wynd Investment Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Waste Management International. Finalists: Fleming, Oliverhouse. Economic statistics: UK housing starts and completions (December), UK MO narrow money supply.

TOMORROW

Interims: BAA (Q3), BT, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Amicable Smaller Enterprise Trust, Continental Foods, Goodyear, Murray European Investment Trust, SKF.

Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, UK cyclical indicators (January), UK trade deficit (November), Confederation of British Industry regional trends survey.

THURSDAY

Interims: Armetra, British Telecom (Q3), Wyefield Group, Westminster Healthcare. Finalists: Colgate-Palmolive, Edinburgh Java Trust, Ericsson, Garment Emerging Pacific, P&P. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

FRIDAY

Interims: Compal Group, Finalists: Heavieside Brewery, Nightflight. Economic statistics: CBI distributive trades survey (January).

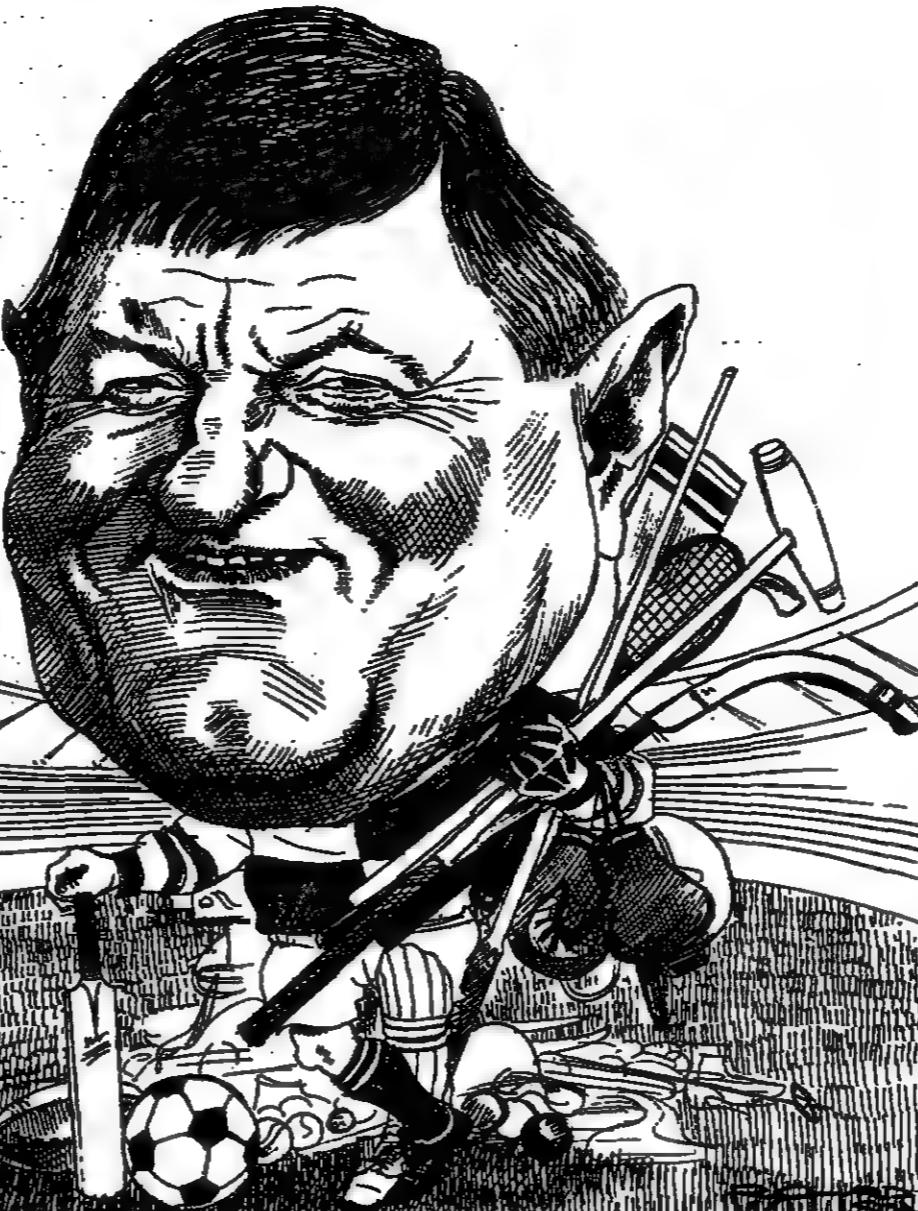
SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Telegraph: Buy Frederick Cooper, Luton, Hiscox Select, CLM, Self-Standard Chartered. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Merchant Retail Group, Manx and Overseas, Hold WPP. Ageis, Independent on Sunday: Buy Games Workshop, Sell Sainsbury, Perpetual, Cassidy Brothers, Airtours. The Sunday Times: Buy Williams Holdings, Bloomsbury, MKT, Hold Bardon, Self Border TV, Hold Observer, Sell Tomkins, BP, Shell.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

OFT poser for BSkyB watchers



Man for all seasons: Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, has encountered concern over sports coverage

BSkyB: When analysts converge on the group tomorrow to discuss its half-year figures, the main topic of conversation is likely to revolve around the Office of Fair Trading investigation into its competitive position in the television subscription market.

As far as brokers are concerned, the outcome of the inquiry is crucial in establishing the long-term prospects of BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, NatWest Securities. The broker maintains that the group's claim to have bilateral political support has been damaged by Labour Party concern relating to the exclusive screening rights of major sports events and control of encryption technology. It says that BSkyB's current rating makes it vulnerable to any unfavourable regulatory action.

Even so, tomorrow's figures should make impressive reading. The group has already indicated that its second-quarter performance will be a virtual repeat of the first quarter, which saw pre-tax profits double to £51 million. Brokers are looking for the first six months to show profits surging from £63.3 million to about £105 million.

Meanwhile, the group will concentrate on its joint programming venture with Granada and its entry into pay-per-view television with Frank Bruno's fight against Mike Tyson next month.

BRITISH TELECOM: Third-quarter figures on Thursday mark Sir Peter Bonfield's debut as chairman. While the group's performance will be under close scrutiny, much of the emphasis will be placed on what Sir Peter has to say about regulatory matters overarching the group and the future direction of the company.

Estimates for pre-tax profits range from £741 million to £800 million, compared with £600 million last time. However, the improvement will stem as much from a drop in redundancy charges as any increase in profits at the operating level, which may even show a small decline.

The installation of business lines is likely to have remained buoyant but the number of domestic connections will probably have continued to decline.

The real focus of attention will be on the regulatory situation. BT remains at odds with OfTEL, the industry regulator, and there is no sign of the problems between the two sides being resolved.

OfTEL is expected to make

its final licence modifications by May, with BT allowed until the end of July for consultation before either accepting them or referring the whole matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BAA: In spite of increased competition from the likes of Eurolink and the Channel Tunnel, the number of passengers passing through the

group's departure lounges and duty free shops shows encouraging growth.

This augurs well for third-quarter figures to be announced on Wednesday, which should reveal pre-tax profits 11 per cent higher at £361 million and a healthy growth in earnings per share of 2.8 to 26.3p.

After a sluggish start to the current financial year, traffic growth picked up towards the

end of 1995, with the group boasting a better than expected rise of almost 6 per cent.

This was in spite of increased competition and a dull charter market.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for an increase of 4.3 per cent to £364 million, in revenues from airport charges partly reflecting the rebalancing of peak and off-peak charges.

The inquiry into a fifth

terminal at Heathrow continues to rumble on and is unlikely to be concluded until next year at the earliest. But the five-yearly review of operations, which sets the Civil Aviation Authority setting airport charges should be finished at the end of October.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL: Full-year figures on Friday are unlikely to make pleasant reading, but hopes are high that they will prove to be a turning point in the group's fortunes. Brokers are bracing themselves for a drop in pre-tax profits of about £20 million to £145 million.

The group gave a clear indication of the extent of the damage back in December, when it said that provisions accompanying the figures were likely to reach £123 million. This arguably took some of the steam out of the situation as far as the market was concerned.

Much of the problem stems from its Hazwaste division, which bore the brunt of last year's write-downs. France has been a particularly annoying thorn in the group's side, struggling to come to terms with overcapacity.

The WMI management is now taking steps to reduce costs and cap overheads at £150 million a year. A total of 300 senior and middle managers will lose their jobs.

DALGETY: Brokers will be looking for evidence of how the integration of its Quaker Foods European pet food operation is bedding down when the company unveils half-year figures on Monday.

Quaker Foods was acquired last year for £42 million and is expected to have performed well with the Felix label grabbing market share from Dalgety's own home-based pet food operation.

That aside, the group continues to struggle in its main home market, where trading conditions remain difficult. Pre-tax profits for the first six months are expected to fall short of last year's £60.9 million, with City estimates pitched at between £47 million and £55 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight falls on industrial output

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ATTENTION will focus this week on Britain's industrial output figures for December, due to be published tomorrow. Evidence so far, including last week's Purchasing Managers' Index, suggests that production remains flat and economists are predicting nothing more than a 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing output, which would give a year-on-year rise of 0.9 per cent.

Total industrial production is forecast to rise 0.4 to 0.6 per cent, boosted slightly by North Sea oil and gas output, which would mean an annual rise of about 1.5 to 1.7 per cent.

Retail sales, by contrast, have been more positive of late and January M0 money supply figures, due today, and the CBI's trades survey for January, out on Friday, will indicate whether the improved trend has continued. Forecasts for M0 were in the range of minus 0.6 to plus 1.0 per cent, according to MMS International, equal to a year-on-year rise of 5.5 to 7.2 per cent.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank Governor, meet on Wednesday for their regular monthly meeting, but after producing a surprise base rate cut last time, no change is expected for a while, probably until rates start falling in Europe.

In France, the CGT trade union federation is calling for further protests this week. A Bank of France council meeting planned for Thursday is unlikely to result in any French rate cuts.

Figures from Germany this week include December manufacturing orders, while US data will include the November trade balance for goods and services, today, and December consumer credit, on Wednesday.

Scottish Life chases expatriate market

By MARIANNE CURPHET AND CAROLINE MERRELL

SCOTTISH LIFE will tomorrow follow in the footsteps of its fellow life offices in Edinburgh by creating an offshore joint venture aimed at expatriates. Its partner in the venture will be Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank. It is under-

stood the operation will be headed by John Allison of Ivory & Sime, who helped launch TrustLink, I&S's first venture into retail investment.

The venture, based in Dublin, will be known as Scottish Life International. Mr Allison

will be marketing director and is expected to be joined by Rick May and Mike Richardson, two former senior Clerical Medical & General managers.

Mr Allison left Ivory & Sime last week after two years as

managing director of TrustLink to be replaced by Richard Ramsey, I&S's marketing director. Scottish Life refused to confirm the launch of the offshore venture and would only say it was "looking at all possibilities".

Germans to pay £180m for Lloyd's building

By MARIANNE CURPHET

LLOYD'S OF LONDON'S City headquarters has been bought by Despa, a German property fund, after beating bids from three rivals. The price for the ten-year-old building is about £180 million, £20 million below building cost.

The Lime Street property has been unofficially for sale since last May, when plans were approved to sell it, but has been on the market since December. Prudential is believed to have been one of the firms interested in bidding for it, but Despa made an offer on January 31.

A spokesman for Lloyd's yesterday said that contracts had been exchanged and the sale would go ahead either today or tomorrow after all 18 members of the Council of Members had been contacted and had given their approval.

The money raised will go towards the insurance market's proposed £2.8 billion settlement for loss-making names. Lloyd's will lease back the building for 25 years, paying about £30 per sq ft.

The purchase confirms the growing dominance of the Germans in the UK property market. Despa already owns a number of buildings in the centre of London, including Hill House in Little New Street and 171 Victoria Street, let to John Lewis, the retailer. Lloyd's said it had secured "a good deal" on the property, but still has to pay for maintenance and repairs on the controversial glass and steel building. Despa is expected to make a 6 per cent return on its investment.

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Martin Waller on why the cold snap left customers hot under the collar

Is British Gas Service losing control?

For a few days after Christmas, while most of the country was leafing through *Delta* for yet another use for cold turkey, a select band of householders had more pressing priorities. These priorities were raising the ambient temperature in their living rooms to above freezing and the public dismemberment of David Wells and his team.

For that brief period, Mr Wells was probably the most unpopular man in the UK — the managing director of British Gas's newly demerged service business. Fat cat utility bosses are at their least loved when their utility is not even delivering the goods — as Yorkshire Water has found out — and the service side was failing its customers in their thousands.

In October, British Gas increased the price of its three-star service contract to more than £100 in some areas. That contract is designed to offer peace of mind by guaranteeing same-day service and repair if the fault is reported by 7.30 in the evening. Within a month of the price rise, as this newspaper was the first to note, customers whose heating or hot water failed were discovering that the guarantee could not be relied upon.

The sudden cold snap meant gas engineers were too busy in some parts of the country even to guarantee arrival on any given day. Customers who had thought they were insured were waiting for days in sub-zero temperatures, with no quarter granted to the sick, the old or those with young children.

It got worse. The long freeze over Christmas and the New Year again caught out British Gas, particularly in Scotland, where the weather was appalling, and in the South East region that had borne the brunt of the earlier problems. Worse still, the tabloids were onto the problem.

"The vast majority of people who have contacted us over Christmas would have got a same-day call," Mr Wells insists. The statistics show that in December 80 per



The heat is on: David Wells, managing director, admits that British Gas Service failed to deliver the goods during the recent bad weather

cent of calls were responded to on the same day, although this is a long way below the 95 per cent achieved in the same month of 1994.

The old regional structure of 90-odd administrative sectors is coming down to seven areas. The workforce is falling from 25,500 in 1994 to a projected 10,000 in 1999, although some of the losses will be redeployed in Transco, British Gas's transportation business. The number of premises British Gas Service operates from will fall from 422 to just 11.

The service business was hived off in March 1994 as British Gas prepared for full competition in the domestic supply market, a trial of which

had seen for five years, and his service operation is in the middle of an unprecedented reorganisation programme.

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has pulled out of some unprofitable areas, such as domestic cooker repairs and tendered work for local authorities, and put in a raft of new computer systems. These market withdrawals account for the bulk of the engineers lost, says Mr Wells. "For our core activities, we don't have any fewer engineers than we did two years ago," he says.

Other innovations are a gizmo developed with Panasonic — a CD-Rom field terminal carried by engineers that diagnoses faults on heating systems and can be used by the engineer to order any part needed — and a new store in Leicester that will carry 97

to 98 per cent of all parts now used in domestic systems. The aim is that if the engineer does not carry the necessary part, as he should do in 65 per cent of visits, these will be supplied by the next day.

The problem is that all these systems are not yet in place, but are being rolled out piecemeal over the next year. By next winter the whole lot should be operational, but this will not help customers who suffer in any further cold snaps this winter. "People here are focused on getting through the rest of the winter in one piece," Mr Wells admits.

The worry is that the well-publicised disasters will mean

customers will not take out further service contracts as they come up for annual renewal. British Gas Service has about three million such customers, four fifths of the market, but there are plenty of hungry competitors, some of whom are already touting for business.

Bob Frazer, head of operations, is equally candid about the disasters of this winter and the danger that the chaos will continue. Conditions in Scotland, he says, were "almost unprecedented. Whenever we get that sort of weather we're going to have trouble".

In the South East, he admits, his regional offices were not giving priority where they should, to contract customers and the sick or elderly, or those with young children. "Our managers out there were changing the priorities. They were under pressure from customers.

If people were shouting loud enough, on-demand customers (those who had not taken out service contracts) were getting priority over contract customers. I think it was because of the pressure our people were getting over the telephones."

The offending contracts, which came in a bewildering variety of forms because of the earlier regional structure, are being redrafted as a single document. The final wording is not yet settled, but it is likely to emphasise that same-day service cannot be relied on in all cases, where conditions are exceptionally bad or demand is especially heavy.

"We're not looking to find a form of words that will let us off the hook with our customers. We're looking to provide same-day service for anyone who calls before 7.30 in the evening," says Mr Frazer.

The central question is whether next winter, with all the improvements in place, will be better than this one for British Gas Service customers. "It's got to be," both men say in unison. Mr Wells adds: "We will go down the tubes as a business if it isn't."

Borrie supports watchdog reform

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LORD BORRIE, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, calls today for the scrapping of the current system of utility regulation in favour of a single regulatory commission.

His support for a single regulatory body follows similar calls from Sir Bryan Carsberg, his successor at the Office of Fair Trading, and from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

While Labour is pledged to bring in a single regulatory body, government ministers insist it would be inappropriate and maintain that the current system, including the separate maintenance of the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should be sustained.

Writing to the Commission on the Regulation of Privatised Utilities, an inquiry set up by the Harmsworth Society and European Policy Forum pressure groups, Lord Borrie says that regulation of the utilities would be strengthened if a new Regulatory Commission was created with industry-specific component divisions.

Lord Borrie, a former head of Labour's Social Justice Commission, says: "Several objectives of the regulators are common. Let them gain strength by being brought together."

Some industry regulators have attracted sharp criticism for their actions, but Lord Borrie says that, under a single regulatory body, there would be a "check on individual excess or waywardness".

The former OFT head also supports the idea that more mergers of regulated utilities ought to be subject to mandatory reference to the MMC — especially those crossing different industries.

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Limited company status would pave way for high street links

PPP aims to expand healthcare base

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PPP, the private healthcare insurance group, will today confirm plans to turn itself into a £500 million limited company owned by a trust company with the twin aims of supporting the business and a new healthcare charity trust.

The firm currently has provided status which means that it has no technical owner. Under its current structure, PPP is a company without shares, limited by guarantee. It has a board of 11 directors

who sit on a board of 25 appointed governing members whose liability is limited to one guinea (£1.05) each.

PPP confirmed yesterday one of the main reasons for seeking to change the structure was to explore different distribution channels to widen the availability of its services. It is believed to be keen to establish some sort of presence in the high street, probably by linking up with a building society.

A PPP spokesman said the new structure would give it the flexibility to investigate other

methods of distribution. He said: "Distribution covers a whole range of issues, whether it is looking at more traditional routes for the distribution of insurance-based products or finding new ways of taking healthcare to people, which is our preferred route." It could encompass "anything from distribution using the Internet, high street branches or home shopping", he added.

The change in structure will allow the firm, for the first time, to attract equity from external sources. This means that when opportunities occur,

PPP will be able to issue new shares to either a single investor or a group of investors.

John Reizenstein, the SBC Warburg director who acted as financial adviser, said: "In making this change the aim is to give greater transparency and also to issue shares." At the same time, he said the firm intended to continue with its existing business objectives and to have a charitable ethos.

PPP has suffered as competition in the healthcare insurance market has intensified. New competitors such as Norwich Union, Guardian Royal

Exchange, Standard Life and Legal & General have grabbed a 20 per cent market share, with NU taking 10 per cent in just five years.

The firm said a flotation was "not currently under consideration", although its new structure will make it a possibility. The change in structure requires approval from the Department of Trade and Industry. The firm said a flotation was "not currently under consideration", although its new structure will make it a possibility. The change in structure requires approval from the Department of Trade and Industry. The firm said a flotation was "not currently under consideration", although its new structure will make it a possibility.

terms in writing to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Under the planned changes, PPP healthcare foundation limited, a charitable foundation, will be created. It will have the same board and appointed members as the old PPP.

Alongside the charitable foundation, PPP will set up PPP healthcare medical trust, a medical charity. The foundation will initially own 100 per cent of PPP healthcare group. Each of its businesses will operate as 100 per cent-owned subsidiaries.

Lang to sign car industry agreement with China

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IAN LANG, president of the Board of Trade, will today sign an agreement with China on future co-operation in the car industry in the hope of creating opportunities for joint ventures and local manufacturing for British car and component companies in the rapidly growing Chinese market.

China is expected to become the world's largest car market by 2005. The value of new business for components is likely to be £5 billion, and £24 billion for service parts, the Department of Trade and

Industry said. China's policy of building up a domestic manufacturing base means few opportunities for exporting British-built cars.

Car production in China rose an estimated 15 per cent to 227,900 units from January to September 30 last year. It has a policy of encouraging any foreign carmakers setting up local production to also build up an associated components sector.

According to the memorandum of understanding which Mr Lang and He Guanyuan, China's Minister of Machine Industry, will sign today, a working group will be set up. It will include representatives from both of their ministries, from the China Association of Automotive Manufacturers and from Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The group hopes to promote the exchange of information and personnel in all areas of the industry, and will recommend candidates for co-operative projects. It will hold annual or six-monthly meetings, alternating between Britain and China. The first will be held in China.

AN AMERICAN trade negotiation team is due in Beijing this week for talks with Chinese officials on the year-old anti-piracy agreement, which the United States accuses China of failing to enforce. Washington could impose trade sanctions and block Peking's bid to join the World Trade Organisation if China failed to live up to promises to protect intellectual property rights. Peking attacked the accusations as unjustifiable in the light of its efforts to combat piracy.

Last month Redland gave warning that its overall profits would fall this year. The brick division performed especially badly with a 14 per cent drop in volumes.

Brick sale at Redland is an 'option'

REDLAND, the building materials company, will tell the stock market today that the sale of its brick division is an "option", but that it has made no firm commitment about its future at this stage (Alasdair Murray writes).

Speculation has grown that Redland is seeking to offload its brick division to raise capital to expand its core roof-tile business in the Far East. But Redland insists the sale is just one conclusion from its recently completed strategy review and that it has not entered talks with potential buyers.

Last month Redland gave warning that its overall profits would fall this year. The brick division performed especially badly with a 14 per cent drop in volumes.



DTI fosters Games plan

MANCHESTER may have lost its bid to stage the 2000 Olympics, but British companies are hoping to grab a slice of the Games action (Rachel Bridge writes).

Colin Moynihan, former Minister for Sport, who has been appointed chairman of the Sydney Olympic UK Business Task Force, arrives in Sydney on Wednesday in a bid to persuade Australian

companies to enter into joint ventures with British companies on Olympic projects. The task force has been set up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Although Sydney's Olympic organising committee is committed to awarding major contracts to Australian companies, the task force believes there is scope for British companies to provide expertise in areas that Australian companies may lack. In total about A\$2.3 billion (£1.4 billion) will be spent on staging the Games and several big contracts have yet to be awarded.

The task force aims to focus on developing partnerships in areas such as infrastructure, design and security, where it believes British companies have relevant skills to offer.

Midland Bank is launching the first bilingual Welsh-English credit card today. Welsh card customers will receive two cards for a combined account, both featuring the Welsh language with an English translation below. The Welsh card carries no fee for the first year and is subject to an annual £12 charge thereafter. More than half the people in Wales are said to want wider use of their language.

Freepages building up to listing

THE FREEPAGES GROUP, a private company that operates as a freephone classified information provider, is to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies.

The company is coming to the market via a reverse takeover of Blagg, the building supplies company. It is expected to have a market capitalisation of about £44 million when AIM dealings get underway on February 27.

Under the agreement, Blagg is acquiring Freepages for £30 million, to be satisfied through

the issue of 250 million new Blagg ordinary shares. On completion, Blagg will delist from the main market and switch to the AIM. A parallel placing and open offer of new shares at 12p each, underwritten by Singer & Friedlander, will raise £10 million.

The funds will be used to cut borrowings and provide working capital. At the same time, Blagg's builders merchants business, trading as G. Blagg, is to be sold for £100,000.

Nigel Robertson, the founder of Freepages and a principal shareholder since

the business was incorporated, becomes chief executive. The non-executive chairman will be Ronald Zonet, president of Investment Management & Finance, an asset management organisation based in Geneva.

Financial results for 1994 and 1995, a development period for the business, showed losses of £961,000 and £1.9 million respectively. There is no profit forecast for the current year.

While the arrival of Freepages was welcome news for the AIM, which has at-

tracted 126 companies since its inception in June 1995, there was a setback when Satellite Communications Systems gave warning that losses for the year to December 31 would be higher than expected. This was attributed to delays in the installation of its satellite receiving equipment.

Revenues for 1996 will also be lower than indicated in the flotation prospectus. The shares fell 8p to 88p, against a placing price of 125p in September 1995.

MICHAEL CLARK

FT 30 share:

2784.8 (+18.5)

FT-SE 100:

3781.3 (+46.6)

New York Dow Jones:

5373.99 (+102.24)

Tokyo Nikkei Average:

20904.03 (+240.19)

Rates for small denomination bank notes may be supplied by Bank of England. Rates for 100 million units' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

Answers from page 32

WORD WATCHING

GOSON
(c) A lad, boy or young chap. Idle Anticlimax and mispronunciation of the French *paron*. It conveys a sense of ludicrousness, no doubt because of its echo of other silly words ending in -oon, such as *foon, goon, Wallon* and *Stone of Scone*. A suitable word, therefore for an adult wishing to address a young male person — particularly a waiter — patronisingly.

PROCELOUS
(a) Stormy, tempestuous, the adjective from the Latin *procelsa* a storm. "What sort of mood is he in?" you are asked by the next candidate waiting for interview by the Human Resources Executive Manager. "Procelous, distinctly procelous," you reply, with a reassuring smile.

BUNDOBUST
(b) Arrangements, organisation. Anglo-Indian slang brought to England by the Indian Army and ICS. From the Hindi *bundu-bust*, meaning "tying and binding". This must be a poetic trade name for a company: The Bundobust Removals and Storage Company.

YAUL
(c) Jargon of rocketry. To deviate from a stable course because of oscillation about the longitudinal axis. You could try this word on the traffic police, I suppose, when invited to blow into their little bag. "It's not what you think, Ossifer. I am distinctly not drunk. I'm just suffering from yaul, and therefore deviating from a stable course because of oscillation about my longitudinal axis."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1...Nc3? Bxf7+ 3 Kh1 Nae1 and mate follows on g2.

GILT-EDGED

Inflationary fears appear misplaced

BEFORE the last election, devaluation was inevitable, whoever won. Then, sterling's ERM parity was unsustainable. This time a key issue is whether inflation is on the agenda, whoever wins.

Underlying worries about the inflation outlook have reappeared. Evidence of this appeared last week in a Reuters survey of 35 organisations, showing an expected year-end ten-year gift of 7.73 per cent. By contrast, I expect yields to fall to 6.5 per cent by then. Even though the UK can enjoy modest growth, inflation should remain low. If it did not, then Britain would be bucking the global trend of low inflation.

There are three market inflation fears. First, there is the concern that inflation pressures may already be in the pipeline. Similar concerns surfaced a few years ago when commodity prices rose. But then a strong global disinflationary pressure, which contributed to sluggish demand, meant retailers and producers had to keep prices down. These same competitive pressures are still with us. But now the concern is accelerating monetary growth. M4 is rising at an annual rate of 10.1 per cent. The fear is that if this remains strong it will eventually be spent, triggering inflation. Although M4 needs to be monitored, it is premature to conclude this.

Nearly half — £22.9 billion — of the £53.8 billion rise in M4 last year was by "other financial institutions". Their holding of money is dictated mainly by rates of return, and so this amount is unlikely to be used for higher spending on goods or services.

The fund, which will have a minimum £50,000 investment, will have a Sharia supervisory board to ensure that the diversified portfolio of international equities will conform with Islamic law. For example, the fund will exclude companies in the gambling or alcoholics drinks sectors.

Welsh card
Midland Bank is launching the first bilingual Welsh-English credit card today. Welsh card customers will receive two cards for a combined account, both featuring the Welsh language with an English translation below. The Welsh card carries no fee for the first year and is subject to an annual £12 charge thereafter. More than half the people in Wales are said to want wider use of their language.

As sterling has already fallen so far, it should remain relatively stable...

Britain's poor inflation track record means these risks need to be monitored. But, to my view, we remain in a disinflationary international environment. Thus, the near-term risks for the global economy are on the downside, with the US and Continental Europe slowing sharply. For the UK to experience some people in the gilt market are fearing requires such a boom in domestic demand that it is unlikely.

Bond markets in the US and on the Continent are benefiting from sluggish growth, low inflation and tight fiscal policies. This points to interest rates acting as the shock absorber, with US rates likely to fall from 5.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent, and the German discount rate set to hit a historic low of 2 per cent this year. As sterling has already fallen so far, it should remain relatively stable in this environment, allowing base rates to fall to 5.5 per cent in response to low UK inflation.

GERARD LYONS

DKB International

Mid cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/-	Yr %	PE
16.00	AMCO Corp	112	+ 3	5.0	12.3
1.47	Abacus Recruit	28	+ 5	5.8	10.4
12.30	Adecco Ltd	125	+ 3	1.8	10.4
4.83	Alchemists & Bld	22	+ 2	...	...
11.50	Alpha Oneiron	325	- 15	5.5	11.8
37.80	Anton St Brewery	325	...	...	...
5.30	Art St Cr Pl	855	...	8.9	...
78.90	Antovar	111	+ 3	...	...
11.70	Art Central	73	...	...	...
1.00	Artisan Money Trust	56	...	...	...
6.28	Artify	7.25	...	...	...
4.62	Arts Hqgs	18	...	...	...
4.03	Asklepios	45	...	...	...
0.98	Brown's Lab	140	...	...	...
5.02	Brown's Hqgs	75	...	...	...
26.83	Broadband	310	...	2.5	31.0
0.94	CCI Hqgs	116	...	...	...
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
3.00	Call Inns	108	...	2.4	8.6
7.95	Calderonian Tst	70	- 1	8.5	...
13.40	Cambridge C	63	...	8.5	...
3.72	Cassidy Bros	63	...	8.5	9.7
1.87	Cavendish W F	43	...	21.8	...
5.28	Celestial Group	18	...	...	...
17.53	Celtic	6750	...	...	...
2.57	Celtic Pt Sls	117	+ 8	2.6	15.0
7.25	Celtic TV	68	...	...	...
13.10	Chelstomers	31	...	...	...
12.20	Cheltenham Tst	510	...</		

Nerves are tingling in the high street. On Friday, Hanson announced that it would close six out of ten of the Powerhouse electrical shops, shedding 2,300 jobs, mostly of the old-fashioned full-time variety. The old electricity board showrooms are following the late Rumbelows as retailing concentrates even further and shifts out of town. Yet life is hardly a bed of roses for gainers such as Dixons and Kingfisher's Conet, any more than for the all-conquering superstores.

Ten days ago, Sainsbury warned its shareholders of its first fall in profit in 20 years as a public company. So big are Sainsbury and Tesco that they are there to be shot at. To retain their more affluent customers, they must continuously innovate and improve service. To keep the cost-conscious, they must discount basic ranges. Costs are under pressure.

Not long ago, however, the sort of consumers who expect tax relief for nannies were complaining bitterly at the ever higher net profit margins the big groups were making, blaming them for environmental ills and demanding protection for the high streets whose business they were taking. Price controls, to be enforced by Ofshop's director-general of food distribution, did not reach the political agenda. But regulation was in the air. It has crystallised in rules on new out-of-town development to protect high streets. In reality, the retail trade is one of the great

success stories of competition. A new Hobart Paper, inspired when Mr Grower was in full cry, explains why an unregulated market worked so well for most consumers, if not for shop workers, society or the countryside.

Mighty as the big four grocers became, reinforced by the monopoly profits earned from their brand names, competitors could always challenge them. When big groups took the yuppie era too seriously, discounters at home and from abroad took their chance, just as the early Tesco brought the market stall to the high street 40 years ago.

High streets could fight back, too. If shops join with local councils to mimic the management of £6 billion groups. In the long run, they will succeed only if they bring consumers back by choice. That means welcoming cars, making shopping more fun and more secure — and slashing rents.

In retailing, better service and lower prices have gone hand in hand with greater concentration, high margins and super-normal profits. Groups such as Marks & Spencer in clothing and Sainsbury in food can charge relatively low

prices but still make "monopoly" profits because they improve cost efficiency continually and use their market power to capture much of the extra efficiency they force on to manufacturers. Food retailing is now highly concentrated. About half sales are made by four groups. But that concentration has been arrived at by free competition. Super-normal profits depend on continuous innovation and heavy investment.

To Ofshop, however, BT's dominance will always be an affront. It is deemed harmful in itself (as well as American theorists had it), evidence that Ofshop must redouble its efforts to regulate. It has stopped BT entering



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

the entertainment market, making it uneconomic to invest in a national information superhighway. Now Ofshop wants BT to give plenty of advance notice of any new services, so that competitors can respond straight away. It is hard to imagine any greater deterrent to innovation by BT or a more numbing disincentive to innovation by its competitors.

Ofshop also assumes BT's supernormal returns are malign monopoly profits, rather than the natural product of a growing market and its own response to competitive pressure. It therefore plans to slash BT profits by imposing even bigger annual price cuts. At the last regulatory round, Ofshop assumed BT would have to cut costs to the best international levels to maintain returns. That damaged Mercury, then the main competitor, so badly that it has retrenched and lost hope of ever rivaling BT. If Ofshop now slashes returns that can be made at low costs, it will dash newer competitors too. They will no longer find it worth investing heavily. Regulation will again entrench BT's dominance, but slash its ability to invest.

Stephen Littlechild, the much-criticised power regulator, realised that competition will only grow if profits are worth chasing. There is still time to stop that Ofshop nonsense before the spectre of a cheerless, profit-less old high street overtakes another regulated industry.

* *Trouble in Store, by Terry Burke and J. R. Shackleton, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs.*

Sarah Bagnall finds Tesco's streamlined goods inwards system paying off handsomely

Squaring an endless delivery cycle

Given so little latitude to raise prices, Britain's supermarket groups are left with little option but to scrutinise every aspect of their cost bases in a bid to lift profits and margins.

About 18 months ago, in the search for cost savings, retailers started to focus on the seemingly simple process of moving products from the manufacturer to the retailer's distribution depots and then to the customer. They ruthlessly attacked the system of transporting products from depots to stores, injecting greater efficiency and reaping substantial cost savings.

According to Tesco, the same number of vehicle trips now deliver three times the volume of produce to their stores daily, and fuel consumption is down by almost a fifth. But the process of shifting goods from the manufacturer to the depots was left alone.

The reason was simple. The first stage of a good's movement, called "primary distribution", fell to the individual suppliers to organise. But attention has now begun to switch to primary distribution, with Tesco leading the way.

At first glance, primary distribution could be considered as interesting as watching bread defrost, but the implications of its manage-



Jam session: a Tesco transport initiative should cut the number of vehicles used to distribute goods by 25 per cent

ment are far-reaching and often provoke outbursts of inventive from the public.

A common feature of Britain's motorways is the seemingly endless stream of swaying lorries. Country lanes and villages are plagued by thundering trailers racing along in their quest to drop off

that day's supplies of kippers and larders to supermarket groups' distribution depots scattered around the country.

The situation is made markedly worse by the knowledge that many lorries are trundling around either empty or only full.

David Smith, head of primary distribution at Tesco, says: "Each of our depots has an average of 200 lorries arriving each day, about 15 per cent of which are probably half empty when they set out from the supplier. Overall, about 30 per cent of all mileage travelled in this country is thought to be travelled empty."

The inefficiencies in the system are mainly the fault of the system itself. The short lifespan of many items means that supermarkets demand fresh stock on a daily basis and manufacturers are almost constantly on the move in a never-ending delivery cycle.

The result is that manufacturers supplying a limited line on a national basis often embark on their journeys with surplus space and then make the return journey empty-handed.

In principle, the burden of the transport bill rests with the supplier but in reality these costs are added to the price charged to the retailer for the

products. It is this that has spurred Tesco into action.

The supermarket group is overhauling the outmoded system, in a move that is expected to save millions of pounds as well as produce the welcome by-product of markedly cutting the number of lorries on Britain's roads, as well as pollution levels.

Typically, every day about 2,500 lorries head for Tesco's 22 distribution depots, which are as far apart as Livingston outside Edinburgh and Chelston in Gwent. Arriving in predetermined half-hour slots the lorries offload at one depot and then dash to the next and then the next.

The supermarket says that this poses problems for small companies, such as the supplier of St Peter's fish, a tropical fish, who is based in Derbyshire. "They have to deliver to all our depots but it's not viable because of the cost involved."

Even for those that supply only Tesco's eight composite depots, which enable chilled, fresh and frozen products to be delivered through a system of multi-temperature warehousing and vehicles, the distances travelled is significant. For example, under this system a farmer might have to travel a total of 2,500 miles every day of the week to supply Tesco and its other retailers with potatoes.

That is no longer the case. Tesco is sitting down with its thousands of suppliers, organising them into groups, which then contract out the distribution of their products to haulage companies.

On the face of it the idea seems so simple and the benefits immediately tangible. In theory, fewer lorries are needed so transportation costs fall and there is more latitude for suppliers to cut the prices they charge to Tesco.

While the benefits are apparent, the logistics of developing the system are fiendishly complex. One major factor for a supplier to consider is how it affects its non-Tesco business. If only the Tesco business is sub-contracted out, the supplier would have even less cargo to transport in its half-empty vans to other retailers. This could push prices up rather than down. As a result the haulage companies will also transport non-Tesco business.

Another complication is that foodstuffs must be kept at strictly controlled temperatures. In all there are seven

temperature regimes: frozen; zero for foods such as fresh meat and fish; plus three degrees for produce such as apples; plus ten for other produce including exotic fruit; plus 15 for bananas; bread and other items; and ambient for goods such as baked beans, health and beauty products and clothing.

Tesco has been trying out the system in Cornwall, Yorkshire and East Anglia. The trials were all conducted for zero-temperature goods as this was considered the most difficult to manage. "This is a very sensitive area. We are dealing with factory finished products and the temperature range at which they can be moved and held is very narrow," says Mr Smith.

In the case of Yorkshire, Tesco has 13 suppliers and although they are not small businesses the volumes they supply to Tesco are relatively small and often result in surplus lorry space.

This has all changed. Under the new system, Read-Bordall, an independent haulage company, collects the goods from the 13 suppliers, assembles orders in a consolidating warehouse, then delivers them in full lorries to Tesco depots. Tesco calculates that as a result of using lorries to their full capacity, the number needed to carry the goods could be cut by as much as 25 per cent.

Currently about 10 per cent of Tesco's total volume is managed through the new system but by the end of the year the figure could rise to 50 per cent as more suppliers are grouped together.

Mr Smith believes that, if rival retailers undertake similar exercises, the savings to the industry will be significant. "It could reduce the industry's distribution costs by tens of millions of pounds and it would be great if it has the added by-product of halving the number of empty runs from the present level of 30 per cent, as well as reduce lorry numbers by 25 per cent," he says.

It is still early days but overhauling primary distribution undeniably offers retailers an extremely desirable means for boosting profits and margins in what is one of the most competitive sectors of British industry.

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz — naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO
KINETIC

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Still seeking the third 'man'

EXECUTIVE headhunters Whitehead Mann suggest it could be some time before white smoke appears from the Stock Exchange, signalling that a new chief executive has been elected.

But I am assured that the post is not the preserve of a male nor does the incumbent have to be British, though that might help. It was on January 4 that Michael Lawrence was suddenly dismissed from his post, since when Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch has been holding additional reins. However, since Lawrence was the second chief executive to go within the

space of only two-and-a-half years, the Stock Exchange will want to ensure that the third "man" they appoint is likely to stay with them a bit longer.

Big shot

MICHAEL ANDREW, whose 20 years in the City included positions with Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers before he "retired" last year, is returning to City life. During his nine-month sabbatical, Andrew took a refresher course at RADA and shot two films, one for television called *Big Sister* and the other *The Therapist*. However, it was for his market talents that he has been headhunted by Furlong Asso-

ciates to join US investment bank Furlong Selz in London as senior managing director and manager of the London office. Staff can be assured he does not intend to introduce play reading at the office.

Refining process

FEEL like jumping on gold's bandwagon but feel uneducated about the language gold boffins use? Help is at hand. The London Bullion Market Association has issued a booklet which explains what the market is all about. You, too, can then speak of "bull put spread", "exotic options", a "naked option", a "Gof" or a "butterfly in options". Never let it be said that gold isn't fun.

Ode to Equitas

ROSS GOW, a former director of CT Bowring, wins the City Diary's Christmas ditty competition. A bottle of Champagne is on its way to him for *Ode to Equitas*.

Our former leader, once a monk

Has seen the light and done a bunk.

For greener pastures, bigger wedge.

Left Names hanging from a ledge.

A rudderless ship, without direction,

Broken Names flog their Art collection.

Once glamorous Mater swathed in mink,

Now Peter's pawned his last cuff-link.

RADIO CHOICE

We, at least, are amused

Battling with the Past. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

Battling is too strong a word, really. I would call this panel game a series of harmless exchanges of blank cartridge fire. The target is Queen Victoria, and the triggers are pulled by four historians. When they cannot be absolutely positive about their facts (were Victoria and Queen Brown lowers?) they speculate entertainingly. Did the Queen's mother sleep with the Victorian equivalent of the millennium? Was Victoria really the only person in history to have an aggressively reading chin? Indisputably, it seems, she said "We are not amused" only once, and that was when a venerable homosexual knight at a dinner party repeated a naughty tale specially for her benefit.

History Now and Then. Radio 4, 9.00pm.

There are five debates all told, one every night this week, all chaired by the social historian Roy Porter, and all based on the perspectives that either unite or divide historians. Tonight's launching debate brings together Professors Asa Briggs and Jeremy Black, both of whom have written highly praised social histories. Porter sets a provocative agenda for them. Generally, he says, historians take an overspecialised view of the past. They stay away from the broader picture. Myopia had become a positive historical virtue. Far from challenging his conclusion, his two guests suggest ways in which myopia can improve their vision if they are prepared to dismount from their hobby horses.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am. *Open Warren* 6.30am. *Chris Evans' 6.55am* 6.30am Europe 6.55am. *Newsday* 7.00am Europe 7.00am. *7.15 Harrods* — *The History* 7.30am. *The Vintage Chart Show* 8.00am Europe 8.00am. *8.10 Words of Faith* 8.15am. *The Greenfield Show* 8.30am Europe 8.30am. *9.00 News* 9.00am Europe 9.00am. *9.30 Breakfast* 9.30am Europe 9.30am. *10.30 BBC English* 10.45am Europe 10.45am. *11.30 Omnidays* 11.30am Europe 11.30am. *12.30pm World Business* 12.30am Europe 12.30am. *British Today* 12.30pm Western Music 1.00am Europe 1.00am. *1.30 Late Night* 1.30am Europe 1.30am. *2.00 News* 2.00am Europe 2.00am. *2.30 John Peel* 2.30am Europe 2.30am. *3.00 News* 3.00am Europe 3.00am. *3.30 Concert* 3.30am Europe 3.30am. *4.00 The World Today* 4.00am Europe 4.00am. *4.30 News* 4.30am Europe 4.30am. *5.00 Europe* 5.00am Europe 5.00am. *5.35 racing* 5.35am Europe 5.35am. *5.45 The Magazine*, incl as *10.30 Europe* 5.45am Europe 5.45am. *6.00 Newsday* 6.00am Europe 6.00am. *6.30 The Big Picture* 6.30am Europe 6.30am. *6.45 Moneyweek* 6.45am Europe 6.45am. *7.00 Newsday* 7.00am Europe 7.00am. *7.15 Great Scott* 7.15am Europe 7.15am. *7.30 Great Sports* 7.30am Europe 7.30am. *7.45 News* 7.45am Europe 7.45am. *7.55 The European Football Show* 7.55am Europe 7.55am. *8.00 News* 8.00am Europe 8.00am. *8.15 Health Matters* 8.15am Europe 8.15am. *8.30 Newsday* 8.30am Europe 8.30am. *8.45 Britain Today* 8.45am Europe 8.45am. *8.55 Sports* 8.55am Europe 8.55am. *9.00 News* 9.00am Europe 9.00am. *9.15 Ed Sheeran* 9.15am Europe 9.15am. *9.30 Late Night* 9.30am Europe 9.30am. *10.00 News* 10.00am Europe 10.00am. *10.30 The World Today* 10.30am Europe 10.30am. *11.00 Tales from 11.15* 11.15am Europe 11.15am. *11.30 News* 11.30am Europe 11.30am. *12.30pm Folk Roots* 12.30pm Europe 12.30pm. *1.00 News* 1.00am Europe 1.00am. *1.30 John Peel* 1.30am Europe 1.30am. *2.00 News* 2.00am Europe 2.00am. *2.30 Ed Sheeran* 2.30am Europe 2.30am. *3.00 John Dunn* 3.00am Europe 3.00am. *3.30 Graham Greig* 3.30am Europe 3.30am. *4.00 Malcolm Leycock* 4.00am Europe 4.00am. *4.30 Dance* 4.30am Europe 4.30am. *5.00 Sport* 5.00am Europe 5.00am. *5.30 Newsday* 5.30am Europe 5.30am. *6.00 News* 6.00am Europe 6.00am. *6.30 Breakfast* 6.30am Europe 6.30am. *6.45 The Big Picture* 6.45am Europe 6

The mysterious attraction of detective series

Sunday nights will not be the same again — or not, at least, for a long time. Most of you, I know, will be mourning the passing of the hugely popular *A Touch of Frost* (ITV), which ended last night. But not me: Jack Frost, I am afraid to say, has always left me cold.

This indifference has three points of origin: a fact which, I realise, will be of similar indifference to the 17 million people who have watched in the last five weeks. But in the interests of stimulating debate and in the vague hope that I may not be entirely alone, I shall share them with you.

First, there is David Jason's oh-so-familiar performance as Frost, a policeman who has somehow inherited all the mannerisms of Del Trotter, but unfortunately none of the charm. Then there is Frost himself, an old-fashioned copper who believes in old-fashioned coppering — results first.

evidence later — and if someone can be bullied into a confession... well, so much the better.

The third objection is more of an irritation. It irritates me that the success of the series will once again vindicate ITV's low-risk, high-return approach to popular drama — stick the right star in just about anything and we'll watch it. Which is why we'll be watching Nick Berry, Robbie Coltrane and Jason until the Larkin cows come home. Now there's something to look forward to.

But having shared that, let us return to last night, which saw the series sign off with a story that not only contained some unplanned but unfortunate echoes from real life (pretty female students, stalkers, long-distance drivers among the suspects) but also bore a passing resemblance to a story from the last series of *Cracker*. Frost broke into his office and

have a thing about mermaids. I'm sure I would have remembered.

Frost's killer, however, did,

which led to some memorable dialogue as the net closed: "If your son is a fruitcake, Mrs Jarvis, I need to know about it."

But for all the shortcomings of a disjointed story (not to mention the strange disappearance of an entire subplot), I wouldn't have missed Jonathan Hyde for anything. Hyde is such a supremely sinister actor that he is nearly always cast as a red herring. But as Dr Keith Michaelson, the denim-shirted Lothario of the psychology department, he reached new heights.

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discovered Michaelson was the author of... *VIOLENT DEATH*, a huge volume with a title in helpful, easy-to-read block capitals. Did he do it? Don't be silly.

Last night also saw the last *Pie* in the *Sky* (BBC1), the passing of which really is reason for mourning. It took me a series or so to get used to Richard Griffiths's brilliantly understated performance as DI Henry Crabbe, the reluctant

policeman and part-time restaurateur, but now I am addicted.

Of course, the series bears absolutely no resemblance to real life, which is part of its Sunday night charm. Fresh from his triumph of nabbing the garden gnome gang last weekend, Crabbe spent last night hot on the trail of two Russian car thieves, which if nothing else provided an excuse for some good subtle jokes.

Bearing, as it does, no relation to real life, this improbably round policeman spends his life surrounded by improbably attractive women — at home by his wife Margaret (Maggie Steed) and the ever faithful Nicola (Samantha Janus) and at work by DS Cambridge (Bella Emahoro), whose wardrobe could never be described as "plain-clothes". All three give lovely performances, with Steed injecting the required steel to lift the restaurant end of things.

At the police end those duties fall

to Malcolm Sinclair, who plays

assistant chief constable Freddy Fisher. Sinclair provides the perfect foil for Griffiths, with a performance that teeters on the edge of parody, but never actually crosses it. His task was made easier last night by the arrival of Phyllis Logan who, as the ambitious and acid-prone Detective Superintendent Chalmers, cleverly consigned Lady Jane and *Lovejoy* to history. She was almost unrecognisable, which, unless you are David Jason, is generally a good

thing.

But undoubtedly the pick of the weekend's detectives was Wexford in *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Simisola* (ITV, Friday). Not having read Rendell's original, I don't know whether it is she or Alan Plater, its adapter, who should take the credit for a quite beautifully crafted script. It may wear its social

conscience rather too openly on its sleeve for some, but the moment when Wexford (George Baker), the great white liberal of the Kingsmarkham constabulary, fell into the "all black people look the same" trap was exquisitely constructed. This being Rendell, it was the "all black corsets look the same" trap, but the point was well made.

The latest Wexford is also technically outstanding, with precisely framed photography, meticulous sound (offices echo in that depressing way they do) and music that is used sparingly but creatively.

With the story two-thirds done, two questions remain. Who or what is Simisola and why is one of the main suspects probably the prettiest jobcentre claims clerk you'll find this side of *Pie in the Sky*? But perhaps her looks are integral to the plot.

• Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

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TVBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (60292)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (91563)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (94595)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3320230)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (7099874)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (74327)
10.30 News (9456)

12.05pm Turnabout (9657679)

12.30 Going for a Song (s) (202939)

1.00 One O'Clock News (94650)

1.30 Regional News and Weather (7708476)

1.40 Neighbours (s) (34585583)

2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9664414)
2.40 The Rockford Files (s) (4144388)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7070765)
3.55 Badger and Badger (s) (1592563)

4.10 Chippendales Go to the Movies (r) (s) (6073211) 4.30 (Ceefax)

5.00 The Gentle from Down Under (7107853)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (785471)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (168122)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (907056)

N.J.: 5.35 Inside Ulster

6.00 8pm O'Clock News (Ceefax) (4141)

6.30 Regional News magazines (768) N.J.: 6.30 Neighbours 6.57 Inside Ulster News

7.00 Noel Telly Years Noel Edmonds presents the television nostalgic quiz. The year in question is 1984, when Gordon Kaye first said "Allo Allo"; Tessa Sanderson won an Olympic gold medal; Keith Barron starred in *Duty Free*; and Chris Sellek plunged in *At the End of the Line* (Ceefax) (s) (3898)

7.30 Watchdog, Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine (Ceefax) (s) (6560)

8.00 EastEnders, Frank's latest move creates more havoc for Pat and Roy. Robbie takes Coal shopping and David has a bone to pick with Ricky

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart, Turned Out Nice Again If there is one wartime entertainer Gary can't stand, it's George Formby. When George turns up wanting to record Gary's latest song, Gary has to find a way to keep history intact (Ceefax) (s) (1124)

8.50 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) (regional news and weather) (2334)

9.30 Panorama: The War on Fish. How will unscrupulous fish stocks and fishermen survive? (Ceefax) (20211)

10.10 Film 96 with Barry Norman includes a Michael Apted from the set of director Danny Boyle's *Transatlantic* (962360) N.J.: 10.10 Pipes and Drums 10.30 Film 96 11.20 Omibus 12.00am FILM. The Regulated 1.55 Weather

10.40 CHOICE: *Omibus, A Day on the Mountain* (Ceefax) (s) (530553)

11.30 FILM: *That Summer of White Roses* (1989) starring Tom Conti and Susan George. A lifeguard at a remote Yugoslav bathing spot finds his job under threat because he has never saved anyone. When he does rescue a drowning man he finds himself the focus of unwanted interest. Directed by Hajko Gric (563740)

1.10am Weather (1109780) WALES: 1.35 News headlines and weather (1109780)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Learning for All (213653) 6.25 Questions of Sovereignty (1771259)

7.15 See You Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (s) (6551582)

7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) 8.00 Blue Peter (r) (Ceefax) (s) (89143) 8.30 Songs of Praise from Wormwood Scrubs presented by Sir Harry Secombe (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1734474)

9.05 Daytime on Two Educational programmes Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (5684360)

2.00 Joe Shuster Jones (r) (3674382)

2.10 Snooker — the Masters. Doug Donnelly introduces coverage of the games between Peter Ebdon and Darren Morgan and David Rees with Andy Hicks. Includes News (Ceefax), regional news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55 (5507085)

6.00 Space Precinct. Futuristic police drama series created by Gary Anderson, starring Ted Shackley, Rob Youngblood and Simone Bando. (Ceefax) (s) (349465)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Science-fiction adventure series (r) (487413)

7.30 Hidden Empire: More Lustrous Than Gold. A drama about Selimha, a Chinese courtesan who was instrumental in bringing peace to the Chinese Empire in its dying years. But was she a heroine of the Boxer Rebellion or a traitor to its cause? (Ceefax) (s) (2022)

8.00 CHOICE: *Horizon: The Gene Race* (Ceefax) (s) (624388)

8.50 Trade Secrets. Housekeepers reveal the tricks of the cleaning chores. (Ceefax) (s) (362495)

9.00 Our Friends in the North. The fourth episode of this nine-part drama charting 30 years in the lives of four Geordie friends. In 1970 Nicky and Gordon meet in London. Nicky is now a fairly political terrorist, Gordon a fairly political merchant, but they have one thing in common — they are both of them from Newcastle. Tasker expands his fruit and vegetable business while Mary makes a move into politics. With Christopher Eccleston, Daniel Craig and Peter Vaughan (Ceefax) (s) (2084153)

10.10 The Travel Show Essential Guides. Actor George Baker visits the formal gardens in Seville and hidden palaces in Cordoba. (Ceefax) (s) (831921)

10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman (Ceefax) (759353)

11.15 Snooker — the Masters. Doug Donnelly introduces highlights of the match between Jimmy White and Dave Harold (s) (945056)

12.00 Midnight Hour with Sir Bernard Ingham. Political chat show (s) (70544)

12.30am 6.00 The Learning Zone (s) (5507085)

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TESCO SHAKES UP
DISTRIBUTION TO
MAKE HUGE SAVINGS

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996

REGULATION UNREST 38

CAN MARKET FORCES
ALONE KEEP
RETAILERS IN LINE?

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COON



Graham Halsall, right, his brother Alan, second right, joint managing directors of David Halsall, with John Walker, left, and Tony Hyams of BZW Private Equity Investment, which has arranged a £5.25 million capital injection to aid expansion at the toy distributor. The firm, which serves Woolworths, Toys 'R' Us, and Asda, among others has a turnover of £31 million.

Single market at risk if EMU falters, says Santer

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

THE European single market will probably collapse early next decade if there is any delay or deviation from the Maastricht plan to create a European monetary union by January 1999, according to Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, speaking at the weekend.

The blunt warning issued by Mr Santer, and political leaders from Germany and Belgium, reinforced the statement by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on Friday that European integration had become a "question of war and peace".

In what appeared to be a concerted campaign to suppress doubts about the Maastricht process, before they got out of hand, Mr Santer joined

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Wolfgang Schaeuble, chairman of Germany's ruling Christian Democrat party, in saying that the creation of the single market was "not an irreversible process".

Speaking to an audience of senior businessmen at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the three leaders used almost identical language to convey their stark message.

"The single market is not irreversible and those who believe that it is are mistaken," said Herr Schaeuble. "Europe is first and foremost a political programme. If we abandon what has been agreed at Maastricht, we cannot hold onto what has already been

achieved." He added that any thought of delaying Maastricht was dangerous and counter-productive. Achieving monetary union "is not a matter of time. It is a matter of will".

Mr Dehaene's threat of protectionist barriers within Europe was even more explicit. "My conviction is that without monetary union, the single market will not hold," he said. "Those who think the internal market is irreversible have illusions."

"At the moment, we accept

some of the consequences of competitive devaluations because we have the perspective of monetary union in 1999. But if we have no perspective of monetary union, countries which suffer from competitive devaluations will take measures that are completely contrary to the internal market to protect themselves."

Mr Santer said that he fully agreed with the other two leaders' comments and added an explicit warning about the

consequences of delaying EMU beyond 1999. "Any delay might mean that monetary union is never achieved," he said. "That would be a giant step backwards on the road to political union. I don't know whether the internal market would survive such a blow."

Even Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission vice-president, who is generally considered to be most committed

to maintaining free trade, said that "nothing in this world is irreversible" and added that "monetary events could put pressure on the single market".

However, in contrast to the other leaders, who said that the failure of EMU would lead to the re-erection of protectionist barriers, Sir Leon, insisted that such pressures would only reinforce "determination to defend the single market".

Underlining the growing rift between the unquenched supporters of a single market and the European leaders who want to use it as a bargaining chip to achieve monetary union, Sir Leon said: "The commitment to a single market is separate from the commitment to the single currency. The Commission's policy and the treaties are clear. Those countries which do not participate in monetary union are fully entitled to the benefit of the single market."

At the moment, we accept some of the consequences of competitive devaluations because we have the perspective of monetary union in 1999. But if we have no perspective of monetary union, countries which suffer from competitive devaluations will take measures that are completely contrary to the internal market to protect themselves."

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Mr Dehaene's threat of protectionist barriers within Europe was even more explicit. "My conviction is that without monetary union, the single market will not hold," he said. "Those who think the internal market is irreversible have illusions."

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Deal near on Sears shoe shops

Sears is expected to reveal tomorrow that it has sold its Saxon and Curteis shoe shop chains to Stephen Hincliffe, the Sheffield businessman behind Facia.

The 111-strong Saxon chain and the 124 Curteis stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as the group moved to reduce the number of its shoe chains.

Hanson move

Hanson said yesterday that a special dividend was one of several options during the demerger process. Speculation is that a 12p sweetener may be added to the package.

Stadium float

Stadium Group, the engineering company, says it intends to float in the next three months to raise £10 million, giving it a market capitalisation of £30 million.

Carlton bid

Carlton, the media company behind the London and Midlands ITV franchises, is said to be preparing a £300 million bid for HTV, the Welsh company which has the West of England TV franchise.

Heat back on for directors at British Gas

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are putting pressure on British Gas for a further boardroom shake-up that could result in the departure of Cedric Brown, the embattled chief executive.

Three non-executive directors, including Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and Lord Walker, who was the government minister responsible for the privatisation of British Gas, are also under threat. British Gas executives are believed to be disappointed with the contribution the non-executives have made to the business, particularly Lord Walker's reluctance to consider the disposal of some assets.

British Gas, however, yesterday described the reports of internal strife as "speculative".

These have performed poorly over the past year as the company has lurched from one disaster to another. It also suffered a setback when the Government ruled out a consumer levy to enable the company to bail out of its take-or-pay gas contracts.

At the centre of the boardroom friction is the uneasy relationship between Richard Giordano, the chairman

whose three-year contract expires at the end of the year, and Mr Brown. It is understood that some shareholders have raised the spectre of blocking an extension to Mr Giordano's contract unless further reforms are made.

The recent boardroom shake-ups have been widely interpreted as bearing the stamp of Mr Giordano, leaving Mr Brown increasingly isolated as the only major remaining member of the British Gas old guard.

Roy Gardner, a contender for the chief executive's position, last month moved from financial director to take responsibility for renegotiating the take-or-pay contracts and for managing competition in the household market. Phillip Hampton was recruited from British Steel to become financial director, while John Wybrow was lured from Stet to take control of strategy planning and communications.

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Gas Service, page 36

Executive bonus overhaul urged

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

STANDARD LIFE, one of the country's leading investors, has called for a complete overhaul of executive bonuses to ensure senior managers are rewarded for "outstanding performance not mediocrity".

Guy Jubb, the insurer's corporate governance director, said that the directors of FT-SE 100 companies should set an example for the rest of the industry. "We are committed to share ownership by executives but the scheme should motivate them to achieve outstanding results, not reward them for mediocrity," he said.

Two FT-SE 100 quoted companies singled out by Standard Life are Carlton Communications, the media group in which the insurer has a 3 per cent stake, and BT. Standard Life has warned it will vote

against Carlton's plans for paying senior managers hundreds of thousands of pounds in bonuses. Selling its stake in Carlton was "always an option", Mr Jubb added.

Michael Green, Carlton executive chairman, is understood to be in line for a £500,000 bonus on top of his basic salary of £140,000. Carlton executives could get a bonus in shares of up to 100 per cent of their basic salaries if its share price and dividends produce a total return within the top 25 of FT-SE companies over three years. Standard Life feels performance targets are too easy for the managers to achieve.

Norwich Union, which has a 3.5 per cent stake in Carlton Communications, has also expressed "concern" over the media group's bonus plan.

Change expected in way jobless count reported

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government appears ready to introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment after a Whitehall report urging ministers to publish the total number of people out of work in Britain. Currently it publishes the numbers that are out of work and claiming benefit.

Dr Tim Holt, director of the Central Statistical Office, is understood to reveal details of the internal CSO report on unemployment figures when he appears before MPs next week to give evidence on the Government's jobless data.

Dr Holt, the Government's chief statistician, commissioned the report when he took

over at the CSO last year after a long and bitter public argument over the validity of the Government's unemployment figures, which Labour claimed were "fiddled".

The report is understood to recommend publishing, in tandem with the monthly claimant count, a monthly total of the numbers out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey.

Currently, the LFS — a survey of a rolling sample of 60,000 households — publishes unemployment figures, based on the internationally-acceptable International Labour Office standard, every three months.

Ministers calculate that

moving to a monthly LFS could add an extra £10 million to its costs, which they claim is unjustifiable at a time of tight public spending restraints.

They are also concerned that the public may be confused if two counts of unemployment are published every month.

Long-term unemployment should be tackled by a new temporary work scheme, which would create 500,000 jobs at an annual cost of £1.7 billion, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank today. The IPPR says that the scheme would be cost-effective and would make the long-term unemployed "stakeholders in society".

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Rodin's vision of *The Thinker*

How to get inside the thinking brain

Recently, in a darkened lecture theatre, I watched on a flickering screen a slow-motion video of a brain actually thinking.

For the first time, neuroscientists have access to a technique for observing the living brain which can show the millisecond by millisecond modulation of the nerves as they flash their messages to and fro between brain regions.

The technique is called magneto-encephalography (MEG), and it works by assembling an image from the tiny magnetic fields generated by the co-ordinated discharge of thousands of nerves. Magnetic fields, according to standard physics, always accompany

electrical activity. The sister technique of MEG is therefore electro-encephalography (EEG), which detects the electrical nerve discharge itself.

EEG has been around since the 1920s, and has been used as a diagnostic tool to reveal the focus of epileptic discharges, for monitoring the level of consciousness, and as a research tool. But the picture obtained from EEG is a crude, blurry

image averaged from the whole brain thickness. Interpreting nerve activity from an EEG is like trying to guess the breed of a fish using only ripples on the surface of a distant pond. By contrast, MEG can probe beneath the surface to yield a highly detailed three-dimensional view.

While the skull has considerable electrical resistance, magnetic fields pass

easily through it. But the magnetic fields involved are incredibly small — starting a car engine a mile away would be enough to swamp the signal. Therefore modern MEG needed the development of incredibly sensitive detectors (called "Squid" magnetometers), sophisticated shielding, and computer programs to eliminate background "noise" and amplify the neurally-generated field.

Three-dimensional images of the living human brain have been familiar since the invention of computerised axial tomography (CAT) scans a couple of decades ago. More recently magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been able to provide an even sharper focus. But

both of these methods produce static pictures.

Another technique called positron emission tomography (PET) can demonstrate changes in blood flow every half minute or so, at about half a centimetre level of detail. But only MEG can provide the millisecond and millimetre power of resolution needed to detect the neural activations directly and in real time.

There are some limitations. Only certain parts of the brain can be seen, and the depths of the cerebral cortex are still out of range.

As Francis Crick has argued, future progress in neuropsychology requires entirely new methods for visualising human neuroanatomy. But until then, MEG reveals tantalising glimpses of the mind at work.

• Dr Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at Newcastle University.

In California, campaigners have fought to save a fragile eco-system, Giles Whittell reports

RUSH CREEK is one of five powerful streams that tumble down the eastern side of California's High Sierras into the ancient Mono Lake basin. As you watch the water race though a shallow canyon to the lake, it is strange and exhilarating to consider that for most of the past 50 years it never got this far. Instead it was piped 350 miles south, to be flushed down the drains of Los Angeles.

The creek's rebirth is a victory for the underdog in a long battle to save North America's oldest lake from its thirstiest metropolis. It also marks the start of a 20-year experiment to see whether a fragile and hauntingly beautiful ecosystem that was all but destroyed by man can be restored by him as well.

If the experiment works, history may thank not only the environmentalists who have made Mono Lake their *cause célèbre* — activists trying to save the Aral Sea in the former Soviet Union have turned to them for advice — but also an unglamorous technological innovation known as the ultra-low-flow toilet.

What remains of Mono Lake lies at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet between the sierras and the Nevada state line. It is lonely except for a tiny ancient mining village on its western shore, and quiet except for the wind. With no natural outlet its level was regulated for some 750,000 years by evaporation alone.

Before Los Angeles diverted its tributaries, Mono Lake was rich in salt and other minerals. These supported huge populations of brine shrimp and flies, which made the lake a favourite staging post for up to a million migrating water fowl each year.

Mark Twain paused here, gathering material for *Rough-*

Wars of the waters that saved Mark Twain's lake



Mark Twain (left) washed his shirts clean in the waters of Mono Lake. The tufa towers, right, calibrating the extent of the lake's disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it.



against today's Mono Lake Committee. This shoestring group of conservationists, a David to the Goliath of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, began a 15-year campaign in 1979 to stop the diversion of Mono Lake's water.

Their first breakthrough came six years ago. Droughts in 1989 and 1990 forced new water conservation efforts in Los Angeles, including the installation of thousands of subsidised ultra-low-flow lavatories which do the work of an old seven-gallon flush with a mere 1.4 gallons.

Other innovations were tried, such as low-flow shower heads and sprinkler systems modified to re-use washing-machine water. The result has been a 25 per cent drop in usage that appeared to make the diversion of 27,625 million gallons of water a year from Mono Lake unnecessary.

Los Angeles has shown an uncharacteristic talent for frugality, and conservationists seized on it as proof that the lake could be saved, without shifting the environmental burden elsewhere. "The city is using the same amount of water now as it was 20 years ago despite growing by a million," says Martha Davis, the director of the Mono Lake Committee.

A year ago, in a decision that won it a rare standing ovation, the city's water board agreed to stop almost all diversions until the lake had risen by 18 feet. Rush Creek and its four neighbours will take 20 years to do the job and the lake will still be 25 feet lower than in 1940, but environmentalists say it will "look full". (Thanks to record snows last winter it has already risen 18 inches.)

Others grumble that saving Mono Lake has simply forced Los Angeles to buy more water from the San Francisco area — \$38 million-worth of it a year, according to one water specialist. Meanwhile, it is far from certain that the wetlands round the lake where migrating birds once nested will recover. Nor do scientists know what will happen to dry tufa towers as they are surrounded again by water; they may dissolve. Bill Hasencamp of the Department of Water and Power says: "We'll know in 20 years if it was worth it."

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Deaf children demonstrate an innate ability for language

From pidgin to creole

SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

THE BIRTH of a new language has lent strong support to the belief that speech is inborn: a function of brain structure and not simply of acquisition by learning. The theory was first put forward in the 1950s by the American scholar Noam Chomsky, who argued that the astonishing ability of young children to learn to speak argues that language must be innate.

Linguists often despair at the loss of languages, which are disappearing at an alarming rate. But over the past 15 years they have had the opportunity to see one born, in a story reminiscent of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The language is ISN, or Idioma de Signos Nicaraguense, a sign language spontaneously generated by a group of congenitally deaf children in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Before the Sandinista Government came to power in 1979, there was no provision for the education of deaf

children in Nicaragua. Full of good intentions, the new Government set up a school and brought children to it from all over the country. But they provided only hearing teachers, who knew no sign language.

This left the children to their own devices, rather like those in Golding's novel. They quickly developed a pidgin sign language, and successive arrivals at the school homed and polished it to consistency.

While those who use pidgin do it differently, the creole signers are much more fluent and expressive.

They can watch a surreal cartoon, says the linguist Stephen Pinker, and describe its plot to another child. They can use it in jokes, poems, narratives and life histories, he says — "a language has been born before our eyes".

The children appear to be a classic example of what Chomsky called "poverty of stimulus" being no block on the development of language. "These kids have been exposed to an insufficient model of language," Dr Ann Senghas of the University of Rochester Sign Language Research School told *Scientific American*, "and yet they have created something highly developed."

The natural experiment in Managua has confirmed something else. Only those children who start before the age of five really become fluent. For those who joined the school later, it is like an adult struggling to learn a foreign language — very hard work which seldom leads to complete fluency.

Navigating by the mountains

BEES navigate better in the mountains. American biologists have discovered, suggesting that they use the horizon and any striking landmarks on it to find their way back to the hive.

Dr Edward Southwick of the State University of New York and Dr Stephen Buchmann of the US Agriculture Department's Bee

Research Centre in Tucson, Arizona, took bees from their hives, marked them with tiny stuck-on metal tags, and released them at a range of distances away. They report in *The American Naturalist* that in the flat area of Arizona and New York State, the bees returned successfully to the hive from distances of up to 5.6km, but on a site in the Arizona mountains they returned from as far as 9.2km. Twice as many made the journey successfully in the mountains.

The conclusion? Bees can spot prominent landmarks and set a course home, until they catch a scent of the hive.

Satellite lost and found

A SATELLITE that went missing a year ago has turned up again in the bush of northern Ghana. German and Japanese scientists who thought it had plunged to destruction in the Pacific are delighted.

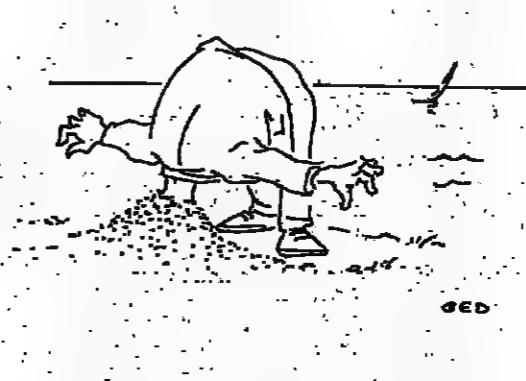
The \$42 million (£28 million) Express satellite was launched on a Japanese rocket in January 1995. It went into the wrong orbit, lost

contact and crashed, to the chagrin of the scientists.

But to the northern Ghanaian bush, where local people later found a re-entry capsule with a parachute attached. The capsule was Russian-made and contained Cyrillic lensing, so the authorities in Ghana feared it might be radioactive. They stuffed it in a cupboard at a nearby airport.

Then a German diplomat read an article about the mystery capsule and put two and two together. A team from the German space agency has confirmed the satellite is theirs. Now all that remains is for them to get it back.

WHAT KIND OF TEACHER ARE YOU WITHOUT THE TES?



DON'T MISS PRIMARY UPDATE THIS FRIDAY

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The woman who up with English rules will not put

Tunku Varadarajan meets this year's Reith lecturer — and learns why there is no 'right' way to use our mother tongue

Professor Jean Aitchison will this year's Reith Lectures give. Does anything seem "wrong" with that sentence? Not according to the professor. She does not like it, of course — just as she would not like "Rosemary an octopus ate" or "Philip his dentures down the drain has dropped" — but she refuses, adamantly, to describe it as "wrong".

"I would call such a sentence ill-formed," she tells me. "I prefer not to speak of right or wrong English... much better to see things as well-formed or ill-formed. Wrong is a word with too many unhelpful shades."

I venture another question. Could *The Times* have a headline that said "Harriet Harman ain't resigning"? The professor — again — says that there would be nothing "wrong" with that. "That is a perfectly clear headline, admirably clear. And since the function of a headline is to catch the attention in an intelligible way, I would have no objection to that."

Hmm... but what would readers of *The Times* think? Would they not be aghast? "Most probably, because that would not be an appropriate headline for the newspaper."

She lingers on the word "appropriate", just as she had done earlier with "ill-formed": these words are, for her, essential tools of analysis. "One has to speak appropriate language... one addresses a baby quite differently from the way in which one addresses a bus conductor." Equally, one does not address the Queen as one would one's mother — unless the Queen is one's mother.

Professor Aitchison, brimming with this sort of good sense, is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford. A linguist — or linguist — she has chosen what she calls "The Language Web" as the subject for the Reith Lectures on the BBC.

Renowned for making abstract things simple, she welcomes the opportunity to explain her research to a wider audience. "The image of a web conveys the complexity of language, the way that it is biologically programmed in humans." But as the title of her first lecture — on air tomorrow — reveals, she believes that we are also caught in "a web of worries" about language.

"People fuss about things that are trivial... things like split infinitives. I must confess to greatly enjoying split infinitives." She has a blast, in between sips of sancerre, against such self-appointed 18th-century "grammarians" as Robert Lowth, Bishop of London.

"They had fixed and eccentric opinions about language, and quite pompous obsessions, such as deplored the use of prepositions at the end of sentences," Professor Aitchison. In turn, deplores these constraints that have been thrust upon us; and Lowth's *Short Introduction to English Grammar* (1762) she has described memorably in print as "pernicious" and full of "pseudo-rules".

People fuss about things that are trivial — things like split infinitives. I must confess to greatly enjoying split infinitives.

Many of these rules were born of the excessive admiration for Latin — and of the elegance of its precepts — which prevailed at Lowth's time. Professor Aitchison read Greek and Latin at Girton College, Cambridge, before studying linguistics at Radcliffe College in America. Linguistics was then a subject "on the ascendant" and she was afraid that if she stayed in Cambridge she would have to spend all her time in the library "deciding whether the Greeks of old dropped their accents".

Flatterly — for hacks — she asserts that the ancient Greeks loved language in much the same way that journalists today love language. "Greek texts and modern newspaper manipulate language in the same inventive way."

Ancient Greek, the professor is in no doubt, is "much clearer than Latin". Why, I asked, in the manner of one not schooled in the classics, "It's straightforward, real-

ly. They used many more verbs than the Romans did, and fewer abstract nouns... just as modern newspapers do."

An example of the Latin method? "England's recovery was helped by Botham's strong batting." And the Greek? "Botham hated strongly and England recovered." I saw her point: a punchy, verbey sentence which no Sports Desk in the land would turn its nose up at. Very journalistic... very ancient Greek!

Her reference to Botham was a nice coincidence, for in the course of a few telephone calls to other dons at Oxford, one — who wished not to be named — described Professor Aitchison as "the Ian Botham of linguistics". He may have been referring to her popular touch — or he may have intended to be unkind. But the professor's methods are certainly colourful. Her inaugural lecture at Oxford, delivered at the venerable Examination Schools, made generous use of visual aids — many of them cartoons by Giles, some of Charlie Brown, others of Dennis the Menace.

If linguistics has a reputation for impenetrability, that is not her fault. Noam Chomsky — in many respects her inspiration, and with whose idea of the biological endowment of language she is so connected — is often dense of text and chewy of phrase. Not so our Reith lecturer. Her books are peppered with gleeful sentences such as: "In a world where humans grow old, tadpoles change into frogs, and milk turns into cheese, it would be strange if language alone remained unaltered."

How many readers would expect the second chapter of a book called *Language Change, Progress or Decay*, published by the Cambridge University Press, to begin with sentences such as these: "A Faroese recipe in a cookbook explains how to catch a puffin before you roast it. Like a cook, a linguist studying language change must first gather together the basic ingredients."

And the chapters of her quite difficult *Words in the Mind* have such headings as: "Welcome to Dictionopolis", or "Interpreting Ice-Cream Cones" — or my favourite — "What is a Bongaloo, Dad?"

What is a bongaloo indeed? Tune in tomorrow... and maybe you will find out.

THE REITH LECTURES

There was a scandal in 1962 when a Professor Cartairs said that charity was more important than chastity, and in 1969 the American scientist Dr Frank Fraser Darling was mocked for saying deforestation and fuel emissions might melt the polar ice caps.

There was panic in 1977 when Lord Boyle

pulled out at the last minute, and the following year the Bishop of Southwark gave warning that Dr Edward Norman's lectures could lead to an era of Nazism. In 1991 the lectures came under attack because 43 of the 44 previous lecturers had been men, but in 1992 the BBC failed to find a lecturer at all.

• This year's five lectures will be broadcast on Tuesdays, starting tomorrow at 8.30pm on Radio 4. The Times will summarise them each Wednesday.

Kate Muir meets the women who have to go to charity balls in order to wear their designer dresses

how much that would set her back, she merely laughed: "We come for the fun." The unemployed have to fill the days somehow.

The Manhattan ladies were perched on gold chairs in the "moneybags" section of the audience while the "fashion celeb" section was led by American *Vogue's* Anna Wintour. The "moneybags" row included Princess Firyal of Jordan, Joan Collins, a couple of *vicomtesses* and *baronnes*, a Saxe-Coburg or two and an African woman in a toga. All were salivating over, as the programme put it, "the glorious certainty of wearing a unique and unrepeatable piece".

Despite reports of haute couture's death, these Americans felt all was healthy. "But, darling, we miss the Eighties, don't we?" they lamented, heading for lunch.

At the Christian Lacroix show I met a velvet-covered Frenchwoman with an orange crocodile handbag who actually said "Ohh low, low," a smoker version of "Ooh la, la", when the designer's more stunning creations were paraded.

She lacked the heady American vulgarity: "I come, then I think a while, then I go to see Christian."

Of course, the fact is that the haute couture shows are intended not for the shoppers but for the world media, so the YSL, Dior or Valentino brand name gets a free airing on television. In fact, Chanel held its media show after a secret viewing for personal shoppers. Either this

is because the personal shoppers like discretion, or because Chanel, and other designers, are slightly embarrassed by their clientele. The newest clients are not French aristocrats, but rich wives from Russia, Arab countries and even China, desperate to buy nobility through dress. Given the prices, the couturier cannot afford to be choosy.

This year Francois Leseage, the master embroiderer, completed his most complicated dress ever for Chanel — a beaded gown which took a record 1,280 hours of work.

"The last customer to keep us that busy was the former Empress Bokassa for her coronation robes," he said. A couturier must be discreet. If a customer's husband, such as Emperor Bokassa, indulges in cannibalism one would certainly not mention it during Madame's fitting.



The former Empress Bokassa, left, and Princess Firyal

Who really buys those haute couture clothes?

So, what do you do?" I asked one of New York's society ladies as we talked, leaving the Valentino fashion show. "Do" she hedged nervously. I elucidated: "You know, a little work for charity here and there?"

"Ah, charity... Yes, I'm at a fundraising ball or dinner a couple of times a week." She leaned forward to confide: "Well, where else would you wear all these dresses?"

It takes an American to get to the nub of the Paris' haute couture shows: displays of excess barely exceed by artistry or charity. Our lady of Park Avenue, Manhattan, was one of the 200 or so real people who actually still buy haute couture at £5,000 or £10,000 a shot, as opposed to the thousands who merely go to gawp for the media.

On the rounds of the shows, it proved extraordinarily easy

to spot shoppers versus gawpers. The "200" still feel it is acceptable to wear orange and emerald green after party, and believe that a woman should signal her husband's wealth by weight of jewellery. Our lady of Park Avenue was wrapped in black lycra and leopard skin, with earrings like hubcaps and diamond rings immobilising her fingers. Her friend, also a society lady, had been inserted into a curvaceous white suit, suggesting haute couture may be worth the money.

The ladies felt that Galliano at Givenchy had been "unwearable, apart from maybe two things" — unlike the fashion press — but that Valentino understood a woman's body. "I normally buy a cocktail suit or dress and some evening gowns," said Park Avenue. Asked precisely

how much that would set her back, she merely laughed: "We come for the fun." The unemployed have to fill the days somehow.

The Manhattan ladies were perched on gold chairs in the "moneybags" section of the audience while the "fashion celeb" section was led by American *Vogue's* Anna Wintour. The "moneybags" row included Princess Firyal of Jordan, Joan Collins, a couple of *vicomtesses* and *baronnes*, a Saxe-Coburg or two and an African woman in a toga. All were salivating over, as the programme put it, "the glorious certainty of wearing a unique and unrepeatable piece".

Despite reports of haute couture's death, these Americans felt all was healthy. "But, darling, we miss the Eighties, don't we?" they lamented, heading for lunch.

At the Christian Lacroix show I met a velvet-covered Frenchwoman with an orange crocodile handbag who actually said "Ohh low, low," a smoker version of "Ooh la, la", when the designer's more stunning creations were paraded.

She lacked the heady American vulgarity: "I come, then I think a while, then I go to see Christian."

Of course, the fact is that the haute couture shows are intended not for the shoppers but for the world media, so the YSL, Dior or Valentino brand name gets a free airing on television. In fact, Chanel held its media show after a secret viewing for personal shoppers. Either this

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Recent work by Bridget Riley goes on show at Waddington and Karsten Schubert
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow


■ JAZZ

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth make sophisticated sounds again at the Cafe Royal
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday


■ THEATRE

David Storey's sporting classic, *The Changing Room*, opens at the Duke of York's
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday


■ DANCE

At Covent Garden MacMillan's sexy *The Invitation* is revived with Leanne Benjamin
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

As London awaits 'the art event of the year', leading artists tell Isabel Carlisle about the enduring influence of a giant

What the genius of Cézanne means to us

GILLIAN AYRES

The Cézanne exhibition which opens on Thursday at the Tate Gallery is not only set to be the art event of the year, but a reminder of what comprehensive surveys like this are for. The show will give every visitor enormous, exhilarating pleasure; but beyond that, like a well-written biography, it should encourage us to rethink our ideas about this great artist.

Cézanne is a key figure for art of this century: he was enormously influential for the art of Matisse and Picasso; he pointed the way towards Cubism; and, beyond that, to abstract art. His genius lay in achieving his declared aim of taking the art of the Impressionists and making something solid, monumental, out of it. He did this by introducing the

weight of sculpture and the forms of architecture into his paintings while still painting with pure colour. He combined the grandeur and harmony of classicism with a vibrancy and exuberance that he found in Baroque art, and in sculpture in particular. He anchored his paintings with solid, natural shapes such as Mont Sainte-Victoire, cliffs or pine trees, and then covered the canvas with brushstrokes that seem to float, and fragment the forms into planes and colours. He was an artist of paradoxes who struggled to find resolutions in his landscapes, still lifes, portraits and wholly invented groups of naked bathers. Cézanne's vision was so original that artists still mine his paintings — if not for ideas then for the courage to be different.

Cézanne an orange is an orange. It is not observed as being lit from one direction. He invented a pictorial language in which edges of objects suggest flat plane parallel to the picture surface which then rounds off at the edges.

Cézanne is resolutely frontal in his approach; his pictures are as formal as Byzantine icons. His language of painting was extremely formal in the sense that it was based on the grammar of forms. He created a language of marks which was entirely his own and enabled him to say all kinds of things.

The motif to him was a constant encouragement, reminder and friend.

His language, which he acquired slowly, is self-sufficient, and comes before whatever it is trying to express. The kinds of marks he made, the grammar and syntax of Cézanne are as paramount as in Vermeer. I think his endless fascination for people comes from the interruption or the distortion of this language by his attitude to the subject, or how the subject worked on him.

Cézanne is a great classical artist who succeeded in doing what he wanted to do.

In classical art the tension between the language and what is being said or expressed is in

an endlessly delicate balance.

As for me, he helps me to dare to follow my most awkward, foolish passions and obsessions, to wave my own red flags in the dull faces of late-century Salon hacks and killers. He gives me courage to invent my subjects as well as my forms.

Above all, his "little sensations" correspond to what I call my "temptations" and I believe in following what tempts me, even though it gets me into trouble — as it did Cézanne when he illustrated his own impulses and secrets. When he died, a critic wrote: "Ape-Eye is dead."

EUAN UGLOW

CÉZANNE is the pivotal figure for art of this century. Matisse and Picasso took him as their god. From him they got the idea that an artist could do whatever he liked. But it was impossible for anyone to copy him.

Cézanne's painting was so much to do with passion: I went to the Barnes Collection and saw those portraits of his wife and found that he must have been incredibly in love. I have never seen such affectionate portraits. He was not just a crusty old man.

Cézanne's responsibility to what he was looking at, and the sensations he was getting, widened his vocabulary all the time. If you look at Cubist pictures, certainly Picasso's best paintings, you see that although very beautiful the vocabulary is very limited.

Cézanne was a sculptural painter but very conscious of the surfaces of the canvas, and, in various ways, keeps bringing you back to the surface. Colour is one of the things that

keeps the picture on the surface.

His pictures go right across the canvas, like a typewriter: he is scanning the surface the whole time. In the late landscapes there is a passion and rhythm that you feel is like a runner running a mile — impossible to stop because there is such a terrific flow through the painting. The marks are done with an electric passion. The same powerful current goes all the way through the painting. Now I look at Cézanne for pure pleasure — he makes you want to work.

**RICHARD
WENTWORTH**

THERE is no other word for the things that I am interested in, other than "things". That has translated itself into sculpture. I find incredible substance in Cézanne's trees, mountains and large ladies. I first saw *La Femme à la Cafetière* over 20 years ago and I remember thinking that the way the spoon was in the cup, the cup was in the saucer and the saucer was on the table was completely incredible. I see him as a sculptor's painter.

The First World War democratised doubt and the 20th century has been full of it. I see it as Cézanne's good fortune to have worked before this event. The fact that a picture by Cézanne is simultaneously so obviously unsure and yet resolved is a kind of ironic encouragement, I suppose. Doubt is the position from which artists have to work, and a century later there are no canons out there to reach for.

• Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1, from Thursday until April 28; sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-20 0000.

ANTHONY CARO

CÉZANNE is a touchstone for artists. He is so firm and rock-like. His concern is not with turning out successful pictures but with working through his problems. In his life and work this is what every serious artist is trying to do.

I have always looked a lot at Cézanne. It used to be the organisation and the clarity of the still life that drew me — now, although I still delight in the still lifes and am moved by the intensity in the portraits, nevertheless I have become intrigued by the "Bathers". They are difficult pictures to come to terms with. Often they are only small, but I wish I could get results that have such power. In Cézanne's work I don't see what one is always told his work is about — the sphere, the cube, and the cone — I see weight and I see horizontal and vertical. After the breath of air that the Impressionists gave to painting, Cézanne brought weight, substance and pressure back into his art. And that I think is the mood of artists' needs today, so for us it is an appropriate moment to have the show.

PETER DOIG

THE first Cézannes I saw were in my father's art books: poor, pale reproductions which were not very impressive to a young artist. At this point there had been so many other breakthroughs that his achievements felt like art history. The period of Cézanne and Post-impressionism seemed to be like that of Abstract Expressionism — a real breakthrough period with plenty of open territory in which people could carve out individual inquiries. You could be an Impressionist or a Postimpressionist — there was a lot of stylistic scope.

When you read older artists talking about Cézanne they have much stronger feelings about him. Where I was at art school, at St Martin's in the



Cézanne by Cézanne: "A vision so original artists still mine his paintings; if not for ideas then for the courage to be different"

early 1980s, we had the tyranny of post-American Abstract Expressionism via British Post-Abstract Expressionism. We were reacting against that.

I really started looking at Cézanne when I started making my paintings of buildings and architecture seen through nature. I didn't want any dominance given to nature or architecture or sky or ground within the painting; everything was given the same level of treatment. So when I made my paintings of buildings seen through trees I thought they

would be more successful if they were painted with the same lack of hierarchy as in Cézanne: instead of painting the facade of a building and then shrouding it in trees I would pick the architecture through the foliage, so that the picture would push itself up to your eye. I thought that was a much more real way of looking at things, because that is the way the eye looks: you are constantly looking through things, seeing the foreground and the background at the same time.

It certainly sounds a lot like him, particularly on the new single, *When We Were Young*, which he sang with a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. There is also an aggressive side to McKee, as he showed during *Tripped*, when he stood at the edge of the stage and sneered the words "it's easy just to be like anyone".

Occasionally, he retreated inwards, becoming even more manic. At one point, he pulled the hood of his sweatshirt over his head, almost completely covering his face, and swayed backwards and forwards like the kind of lunatic you try to avoid making eye contact with on the Tube.

Whipping Boy have enormous pop potential, as they showed in the closing *We Don't Need Nobody Else*, which McKee mockingly described as "a Bryan Adams song" but which is actually a vivid account of domestic violence wrapped in a bold, catchy tune.

McKee has been known to strip off all his clothes and perform naked. Thankfully, on this occasion, he remained fully clothed; when Whipping Boy are as good as this, they do not need the extra gimmick.

The most obvious comparison is with Shane MacGowan.

HOWARD
HODGKIN

IN ENGLAND, certainly for someone of my generation, Cézanne's reputation has suffered greatly because of the use he has been put to by art teachers: the way he has been treated as a moral stick to beat people with. When I was a schoolboy you couldn't seriously consider becoming an art student or a painter unless you worked from nature. Cézanne was held up as the great

exemplar of someone who looked, and nature did something to him and art came out.

Cézanne was not the apostle of sitting on a stool in front of a tree, a still life or a naked model and looking very carefully and using a plumb line and if you did that with sufficient application art would ensue. He was an artist first. The lucidity in front of nature that he shows is because the drawing itself is more important than the perceived subject.

His pictures are flat. In a

strengths of Pires's performance was her ability to startle, to make music that is as familiar and comfortable as a warm glove sound fresh, even strange.

Clarity of articulation was the key to Pires's stunning performance of Mozart's Sonata in B flat major K333. Her attention to phrasing was total (the syncopations in the development section of the first movement, for example, were brilliantly pointed), but the result was unfussy and the broader interpretative canvas was only enhanced by such details.

Here, as throughout the programme, which also included Schumann's *Three Romances* Op 28 in an account full of rhapsodic energy, Pires was a master of contrast — as, for instance, in the contained elegance of Mozart's last-movement Rondo theme juxtaposed with the thunder of his mock-cadenzas, or the sudden passion that erupted in a minor key episode in the otherwise mellow Andante Canzoncina. This ability to change, in an instant, both tone quality and character reflects Pires's absolute technical control and lends her performances greatness.

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Walter Weller with the Israel Philharmonic (Decca 432 635-2, budget) finds an infectious tilt in the dance episodes and takes an unfussy approach.

• Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall, London SW1, telephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogoc.co.uk

• Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Verdi's *Don Carlos*

RECEITAL

Total control

Maria João Pires
Wigmore Hall

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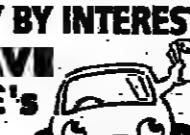
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Matthew Parris



■ The everyday features of our lives change before our very eyes, before we even notice

Where have hitch-hikers gone? I have always offered lifts but, driving an empty car onto the M1 the other day, I reflected on how seldom now one sees those hopefuls with cardboard notices saying "Leeds". Ever since I hitched as a young man, this has struck me as a sensible way for the enterprising and the skint to travel: a fuel-efficient and "green" mode of transport. So why is hitch-hiking dying out? I have no reason to believe it has become more dangerous, though we do make an increasing fuss about danger. Are the poor so much richer than they were? Or does a culture in parts of which it is almost the vogue to beg for money now regard it as demeaning to beg a ride? This is just one of many once-familiar features of our lives whose quiet exit is hardly noticed until, one day, you wake up and wonder where they've gone. Unobtrusively, they have made their excuses and left.

Sometimes a death goes almost unremarked. An individual who has been long retired and sunk from public view passes away, perhaps in August when we are abroad. Then, years later, we say "I wonder where so-and-so is these days?"

"Oh, she's been dead years; didn't you know?"

And so it is, not just with people, but with things: with words (who is a spinster any more?); with habits, practices, gadgets — with ideas, even. Where, for instance, are the dark, starry skies of our youth? Retreating, as every new column of orange sodium street lighting marches across Britain.

And where did pyjamas go? I wore some last week, for the first time in years, and thought what a good idea they were. Like clockwork alarm clocks, gold top milk, NHS dentists, top-loading washing machines, men in hats and children cycling to school, they slip, one by one, from our lives.

Sometimes the reasons are obvious. We do not have to ask why it's ages since we saw greaseproof toilet paper, a Tardis police telephone box, or blotting-paper; why, taking a record from my collection of LPs, I forgot how to play them; or why you hardly see children playing in the street any more. But the reasons for some of the disappearances are more mysterious. A decade or more ago (as I recall) all the traffic-lights in London used to have *flambeau* — flaming beacons, in cast iron — proudly mounted on top. As a child I used to believe that these represented lions' tails, but lions' tails or torches they were a noble and stylish ornament to the street furniture of our metropolis. Some ghastly local government person must have decreed that these fripperies

Zebra crossings, two-tone cars, dial telephones, hitch-hikers — where are they now?

Dad also thought stereo record-players would be a nine-day wonder, because the aim of every great conductor was to produce a unified sound. Where are mono music centres now? Like black-and-white TV sets, telegrams and postal orders, they have made their excuses and left. Telex, I think, will be the next to go.

Two-tone cars, the top half painted a different shade from the lower, have gone too. Why? I rather liked them. Also gone are bench front seats and steering-column gear-changers yet I can remember when gear-sticks on the floor were thought old-fashioned. And why are babies' prams disappearing? They are, you know, along with tartan pull-along shopping trolleys. The reason's by no means clear.

More perplexing still is the extinction of Avrils. In the 1950s almost everybody was called Avril. Now I know only one. Have the others all died?

The recollection of so many old friends, plucked from us, induces melancholy. And several other friends are putting on their coats as I write: telephones you dial rather than stab; typewriters: cheques ... doomed, all doomed.

So what will be next to go?

Newspapers? The Internet edition of *The Times* is now available at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

The Labour leader promises radical change, and seems to mean it, but how will he behave in adversity?

Getting to know the real Mr Blair

Michael Heseltine has become the spin-bowler of the Tory party. He strides up to the wicket, his arms flapping, looking like one of the battered old professionals who played for Northants or Glamorgan in the years before the war. Unfortunately his gong is so obvious that a talented batsman would be able to spot it wearing dark glasses in a thunderstorm.

Yesterday he was trying to persuade David Frost that "three weeks of pounding" had knocked Tony Blair of his perch. The Tories are making themselves ridiculous by running a knocking personal campaign so long before a general election, and only ten days before the Scott report is published. They do much better to stick to issues of policy, on which their case is stronger.

Tony Blair may have rather more to fear from his friends than his enemies. The latest issue of *The New Yorker* has a long and favourable profile of Tony Blair by Sidney Blumenthal. He is a perceptive journalist, makes a number of good points, and quotes a remark I had forgotten from Tony Blair's speech to last October's Labour Party conference. Even then, Blair was able to mock the various and incompatible attempts the Tories had made to pin a label on him. "It has been hard, I know. Hard for me sometimes. Last year Bambi, this year Stalin. From Disneyland to dictatorship in six short months."

Yet Blumenthal casts Blair in a role which is, I think, equally misconceived. As an American commentator, he naturally relates British politics to his American experience, and specifically he treats Tony Blair as though he were the British Bill Clinton. If that were true, it would be a disaster. Tony Blair promises to change Britain. The changes he has

made in the Labour Party are only a preliminary to that. Whatever view one takes of President Clinton, he is not a radical in that sense. If new Labour turns out to be the same as the Clinton White House, Tony Blair will have failed in his own terms. Indeed Sidney Blumenthal sees this. Blair in power would not be checked and balanced; with a certain majority, he could propose and dispose. The experiment that Clinton proposed at the beginning of his Administration, but which was frustrated, might therefore be tested first in Blair's Britain.

The Clinton experiment has indeed been a failure. But the Blair experiment is not at all the same, and Blair himself is not Clinton. This is a sensitive issue for those of us who can remember the 1960s, because we have already been conned once by Labour. Harold Wilson made rather similar claims to Tony Blair's, but he did not deliver, or seriously try to deliver, what he promised in Opposition. If new Labour turned out to be a return to the Harold Wilson style of social democracy, it would be a disaster. Equally, Bill Clinton has not kept his promises of 1992: it is a polite euphemism to say that his "experiment" has been "frustrated". So the question is whether Tony Blair is another politician like Clinton or Wilson, or whether, for better or worse, he is a radical who means seriously what he says about changing the country.

In 1962, a few months before his death, I had my last lunch with Hugh Gaitskell, the Labour leader whom I have most admired and trusted. He had been defeated in his attempt to abolish Clause Four, an issue on which Tony Blair was to succeed more than 30 years later. He was confident, however, that he would win the next election, whenever it might come. He talked about the difficulty of changing the Labour Party; he had loyal support from some of the younger men, including

Hugh Gaitskell had, and the same sense that the values of the Labour Party must not be overborne by out-of-date ways of achieving them. Both men believed that political values are permanent — and their values are very similar — but that methods have to be changed, and may have to be changed completely.

There are obvious ways in which Tony Blair does not resemble Hugh Gaitskell.

Gaitskell had the mind of a first class academic, and loved to teach. In the mid 1950s, when I was a lonely young lobby correspondent for the *Financial Times* somewhat out of my depth, and he was Shadow Chancellor, I remember him giving me impromptu tutorials on the machinery of the Finance Bill, which must have kept the readers of the *FT* unusually well informed. Tony Blair makes his arguments more like a barrister who wants to persuade the jury. But the two men are certainly the most alike of Labour leaders, perhaps best defined as radical social democrats.

Partly because they happened to look alike, Hugh Gaitskell used to be compared to the Younger Pitt — some of Gillray's cartoons of Pitt could have been taken for Hugh. This, rather than Disraeli's One Nation, is the temperamental tradition in politics to which Tony Blair belongs. Disraeli was much more the phrase-maker and poseur. Pitt and Blair

have the same element of youth, though not to the same degree. There is the same attachment to ideas of policy, and to the people who share those ideas. In 1785, Daniel Pulteney wrote about William Pitt: "His living and conversing with a very small circle, and acting only on abstract general principles, will, I foresee, involve him at some time or other in difficulties."

Both Hugh and Tony, like Pitt, had or have a small group of friends focused around common ideas: so did another radical politician, Margaret Thatcher. All four of them have the capacity to involve themselves in difficulties.

Pitt was radical; one cannot read his great speech of December 3, 1798, in which he first introduced income tax, without seeing how radical his mind was. He also had the sense that political strength is built by overcoming rather than evading obstacles, which is part of the radical politician's creed — of Margaret Thatcher's even more than of Tony Blair's. Blair still has too many enemies in his own party, just as Margaret Thatcher always had in hers.

During a debate in October 1796, William Pitt suddenly flared up as Hugh Gaitskell used to, at something Charles James Fox had said: "Of the virtues to be acquired in the school of adversity, the Right Honourable Gentleman only mentioned those of moderation and forbearance. There are other virtues of no less importance which are to be acquired under a reverse of fortune — they are the virtues of adversity endured and adversity resisted; of adversity encountered and adversity surmounted." I think Tony Blair will suffer adversity — probably more than he can yet perceive. I do not think he will particularly seek to avoid it. I am sure he will endure and resist it; whether he will be able to overcome it, only time and events will tell.

It will be Europe that matters

Peter Riddell
assesses the
make-up of the
Tory party after
the election

Ideology is a much overrated influence within the Tory party. Desire for office and re-election, the pressure of events, generational changes and long-term social and economic trends all matter as much, and often more. Most Tory MPs are not very ideological, or even factional. Consequently, the party is likely to change much less after the next election, win or lose, than is commonly assumed — with the important, and possibly critical, exception of the rising tide of Euro-scepticism.

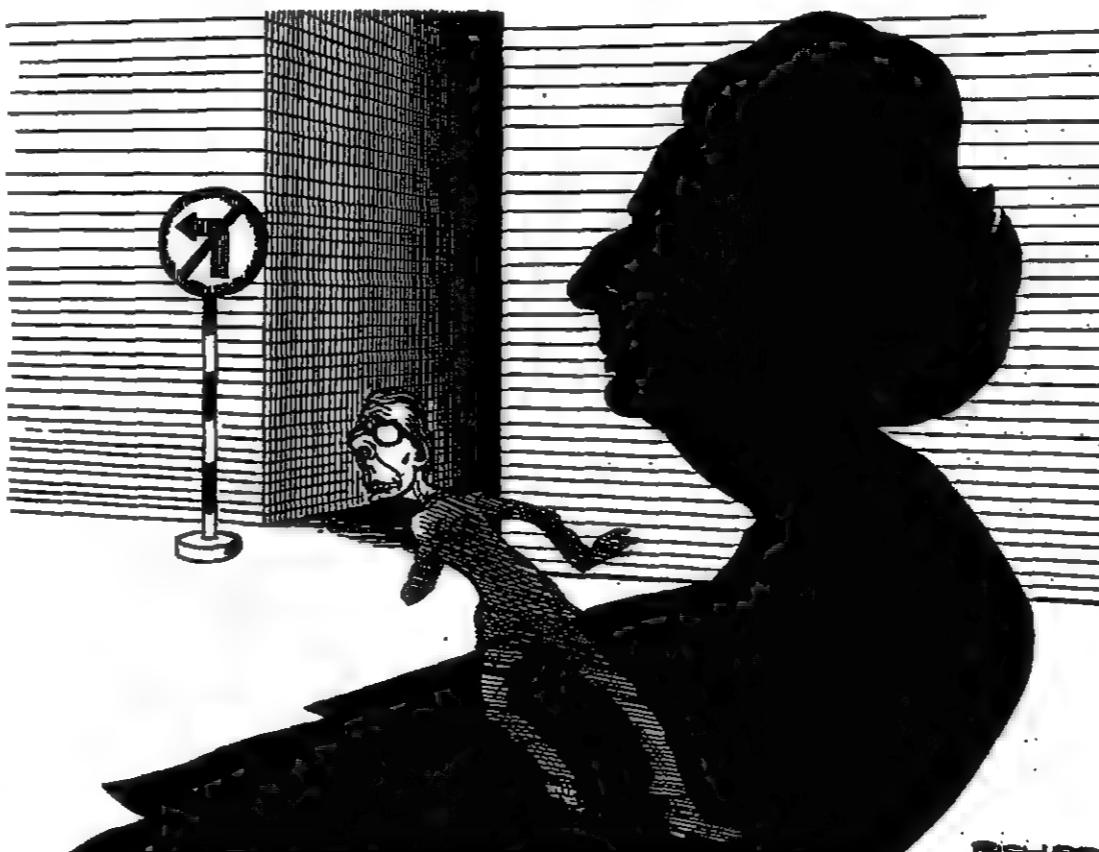
Even at the height of Margaret Thatcher's powers, in 1989, Professor Philip Norton, a leading taxonomist of MPs' views, reckoned that no more than one in five Tory MPs was a committed Thatcherite. The same could be said now of the hard-core Euro-sceptics. The 1992 intake of Tory MPs has never behaved with the ideological zealotry and cohesion of Washington's freshman class of House Republicans elected in November 1994, who have now even challenged the authority of Newt Gingrich's Robespierres.

Much of the current discussion about One Nation Toryism therefore misses the point. In the current issue of *Prospect* magazine, Ian Gilmour offers a typically elegant lament for the failure of the Tory Left and its complicity in "the right-wingery" of the Major Government, arguing that the Left was beguiled by John Major's humane rhetoric. The Gilmour approach has in turn irritated the more fervent Potters and Redwoodites, who accuse the Government of having shifted to the left at the last reshuffle.

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RIDDELL ON MONDAY

cates reducing the scope of the State. Kenneth Clarke is often held up as the last great defender of a One Nation approach. And so he is, in the sense that he rejects the calls of some free-market think-tanks for a shift to an American-style insurance system. His acknowledgement of the limits of any medium-term reduction in the share of public spending has received much attention. But as a minister he initiated many of the most controversial changes in health and education, and has presided over very tight squeezes on public spending.

Mr Major, far from rejecting the domestic programme of the Thatcher era, has maintained and implemented it — as is shown by a valuable study, *Contemporary British Conservatism* (just published by Macmillan). Steve Ludlam and Martin Smith, the joint editors from Sheffield University, argue that the Major administration has been most faithful in those areas where Thatcherism was incomplete, such as Civil Service reform and trickier privatisations such as rail and coal.

This approach appears to be shared by most new Tory candidates in winnable seats ("appears" because many have no very clear-cut views).

At most, there seems to have been a modest shift to the loyalist Right in the selections. Several rightwingers have taken new seats, and well-known leftwingers have been replaced by committed rightwingers (such as Sir Julian Critchley by Gerald Howarth at Aldershot). But in other cases, it is more of a shift of generation and style, while several

Centre-Left candidates have been chosen, in some cases to succeed right-wingers.

Some able candidates on the free-market Right have not yet been selected, notably Michael Fallon, the former Education Minister, and John Bercow, an energetic special adviser. They have been on shortlists, chosen by a small group of committed activists, but the final decision lies with the wider party membership, which is generally less ideological. Hence, the broader mix of Right and Left candidates, who have been chosen as much for their personalities and career records as for their views.

Moreover, even if the Tories lose the election, changes will be limited by what financial managers call a flight to quality, that is a shift by sitting MPs to safer seats. This has been exemplified by Cabinet ministers in constituencies being split by the boundary changes opting for the safer portion. They include Brian Mawhinney, Stephen Dorrell and Peter Lilley; while Sir George Young, James Arbuthnot and Eric Forth are among a dozen MPs moving to entirely different and safer seats.

The Identikit new candidate, like the average MP, supports cuts in public spending and taxes, without putting forward the radical Right's plans for cutting back state provision of health and education. He, and in a few cases she, favours more police and tougher sentencing, without necessarily backing the return of capital punishment. He is strongly loyalist, but is also generally Eurosceptic. Indeed the biggest shift at the election will be the replacement of strong pro-Europeans in their sixties by sceptics in their late thirties and forties. Some pro-Europeans have been picked, including former and current MEPs, but they are exceptions.

Almost whatever the result, the election will see a further reduction in the pro-European forces. In the battle for the future leadership and direction of the party, however, the Tories' deep divisions about Europe are likely to matter far more than their broad consensus on domestic policy. It always comes back to Europe.



The Countess of St Andrews

does — it is likely to be to his sister, Pat Desso, The 65-year-old widow, who brought her children up on her own, has admitted to a series of late-night chats with her little brother, in which she advised him to end the Tory crusade against single mothers. Her rare public pronouncements are a pleasing contrast to Terry Major-Balk's enthusiastic but interminable chunterings.

P.H.S

Pardon me?



AS William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, fights for his political future over his involvement in the arms-to-Iraq affair, his trusty special adviser, David Rutley, who has been an indispensable support to him over his Scott-induced tribulations, is involved in a political struggle of his own.

He has joined the race for selection for a Conservative seat before the general election, but finds himself competing with another Treasury colleague, the similarly named David Ruffley. The two Davids — telephone callers to the Treasury are advised to enunciate clearly — are each hoping to be selected as the prospective Conservative candidate for Buckingham.

Ruffley — who is slightly larger than Rutley and likes to play golf — lost out to Norman Lamont recently in Harrogate, and is special adviser to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

David Rutley — a sinewy type who likes rock-climbing — followed Waldegrave to the Treasury as special adviser, having been with him in beleaguered days at the Roe-

hampton golf course, right in front of the clubhouse, a few weeks ago and started to speculate. But then as the former City of London Sheriff, Jonathan Charkham, tried to tee off in a competition on Saturday, the fox picked up his ball and carried it over to a bunker and dropped it in. The crowd roared with laughter and Charkham reclaimed his ball, but the animal decided to stay and watch.

The fox's gaze proved distracting. "Unfortunately Charkham played the shot straight into the same bunker," says a sympathetic observer.

• Prince Edward, who attended the England v Wales five nations' championship match at Twickenham on Saturday without his amanuensis Sophie Rhys-Jones, officially opened the new ERIC room. The England Rugby Internationals Club, open only to those who have played for England, is said to have a "nightclubby" atmosphere, which may be why the Prince stayed longer there than expected and had to be pried away for the official lunch.

Modest means

MAYA FLICK is currently contesting her divorce settlement from the Mercedes-Benz heir Friedrich

Christian "Mick" Flick through the British courts, and claims she can't manage on £29 million. But according to her brother, Maya is really a woman of simple tastes, even though the judge bailed at a request for £4,000 a year to look after her Labrador.

In an interview in the forthcoming edition of *Harpers & Queen*,

Count Alexander Schönburg says loyally of his sister: "Her favourite car is a 2CV, while her husband drives a Ferrari. The divorce settlement gives her under a million pounds to furnish two houses in England plus a holiday chalet in Klosters. Mick would spend that on a Louis XVI chest of drawers. Even his ashtrays are antiques."

Taste trials

AFTER the opening last week of *The Fields of Ambrosia*, a show which finds fun in people being fried in electric chairs, I have news of another musical of breathtaking tastelessness bound for the London stage. A French company is negotiating with producers to bring *D-Day: The Musical* into the West End.

One scene takes the form of a duet "which is a mixture of words and cries of grief and pain". Another episode, in which soldiers witness a glutinous stuffing their face, concludes with them "womiting in unison at the end of the scene". But the jolliest scene occurs before the troops even land in Normandy. "This scene will be treated with humour even if its theme is one of awful suffering from seasickness," runs the cheerful summary, arguing bewilderingly that "this unex-

pected use of humour surprises the spectator and will thus serve to amplify the horror of the situation". Ah, the Gallic joie de mourir!

Frisky biz

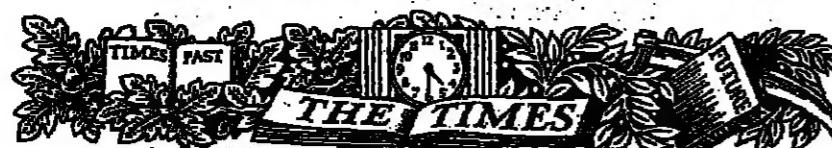
BUNTY LEWIS, the stalwart chairman of the Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball committee, which raises money for the hospital, is hanging up her dancing shoes.

Bunty — who has shepherded dozens of debts, including the supposedly named Mink Sloane, down the grand staircase at the Grosvenor House in their long white frocks — has been an imposing figure on the social scene for seven years, since she resurrected the ball. But ill-health has forced her to take a less demanding role.

"I am going to be joint president with Lady Robson, the Countess of St Andrews, will be chairman," she says. "I am there to help, to be her blotting-paper." Lady St Andrews, the former Sylvana Tomaselli, was a tutor at Cambridge, and after dealing with unruly undergraduates during the 1980s, will have no trouble keeping the frisky debts in line.

• If the Prime Minister speaks on the telephone to a woman late at night — as the Duke of Edinburgh

did last night — he will be told that he is being a bit of a twit. The Duke of Edinburgh



A HEAVY TREAD

True German leadership would face the facts about EMU

For a German Chancellor even to hint, in Belgium of all countries, that where German jackboots twice marched this century they could march again unless Europe follows Germany's federal route-map is worse than infelicitous: it is contrary to Germany's own interests. Helmut Kohl has never been a man for the subtle nuance; his is an all-or-nothing federal vision of Europe and he has never made any bones about it. In substance, his "nationalism is war" speech at the University of Louvain last week added little to his well-known view that Europe faces a straight choice between "continued integration" and catastrophe. But the more Herr Kohl insists on doing things his way, the more attention he draws to an awkward fact. Among the European Union's major players, Germany alone believes wholeheartedly in its federal destiny.

Herr Kohl's motives are nothing but honourable. He is convinced that unless German power is constrained within a federal EU, fear and resentment of German power will reignite nationalism among its neighbours, particularly France, and make war on the Continent possible at some point in the future. He also believes that among German politicians, he alone has the determination and the persuasive power to bring about "irreversible" European integration.

It does not follow that a "European Germany" can be secured only on German terms. If Herr Kohl believes that fear will force the rest of Europe into line, he is in serious error. There is nothing either illegitimate or dangerous about the British view, reiterated yesterday by Michael Portillo, that nation states and nationalism are not the same thing and that the way ahead is to look for "ways in which nations can collaborate together more and more".

Nobody disputes that, from its origin, the driving political imperative behind the EU has been to make war between its members

unthinkable. Nobody, as Mr Portillo said, "wants to go back to the sort of terrible nationalism that was unleashed in the 1930s". Herr Kohl would do better to celebrate that historic success than to utter apocalyptic warnings which give scant credit to the solid democracy that Germany has become. He will win no arguments that way, or by ignoring the increasingly fluid, creative debate about the role of the modern nation state in a stable, prosperous Europe.

Herr Kohl's antennae, so sensitive when it comes to dealing with the strategically vital manner of the West's relationship with Russia, have been blunted by his anxiety about monetary union. It is now evident that if Europe is not to plunge into recession, the Maastricht rules on deficits will have to be relaxed if the 1999 timetable is to be met. The truth in fact permits this, but any such decision would greatly intensify the resistance of Germans to giving up the mark. Herr Kohl has always seen EMU as a means to a political end. He is convinced that the pooling of monetary sovereignty would create the basis for the federal Europe of his dreams — which is why he suspects Britain of sabotaging the project.

Irritation should not blind him to a far more present danger than warlike nationalism. Unless two conditions are met, EMU will fray the bonds of faith that underpin all democracies. There must be a genuine economic convergence, or the management of a single currency will produce nothing but dispute; and the peoples of Europe must themselves be convinced of EMU's positive benefits. Since neither of these conditions now obtains, true German leadership would consist in a courageous admission of the facts. By dismissing all doubt, Herr Kohl is at risk of sounding less than respectful of the democratic processes he set out to champion at Louvain last week. He is also at risk of creating what he fears: a divided Europe.

THROUGH SIGNAL

Ideology never made the trains run on time

In the frosty early morning, the first scheduled private trains to run on Britain's mainline network for more than 48 years pulled into Paddington and Waterloo yesterday. Their curious passengers were duly fitted by the new railway directors and a triumphant Transport Secretary. Sir George Young's relief is palpable: despite soaring costs, publicised bureaucratic absurdities and the stubborn suspicion of the travelling public, the most complex privatisation ever attempted in Britain has at last paid off. For the first time since 1947, regular passenger services are now being provided by private companies ready to inject their capital, innovative skills and entrepreneurial energy into a neglected, run-down but vital sector of the nation's transport network.

Yesterday's sunny mood, however, suffered a political eclipse. Less than a day before the third private company was to join the debut of Great Western and South West Trains, the Government ordered a halt to the transfer of the London, Tilbury and Southend line to private management. Suspected fraud involving the reissuing of tickets at a station shared with London Underground, thus cheating the rival company of about £30,000 a month, has severely embarrassed the Government. It could not have given opponents of privatisation a more tellingly symbolic example of the seemingly endless mishaps that have dogged this complex operation. Even Conservative MPs, champions of free enterprise, concede that transfer of the LTS line is, at present, unconscionable.

Already the incident has highlighted the dangers inherent in breaking up a network into competing units. So fierce will be the

competition for the elusive passenger that the new companies may be tempted to do down their competitors by methods more reminiscent of the pirate practices of America's railway barons than the business moves expected of today. Firmness by the Rail Regulator and intrusive enforcement of the conditions of the new leases by the franchise director will be essential.

The system, however, must now be allowed to operate. However misconceived the basic proposal to split British Rail into as many as 25 companies may have been, the legal reorganisation is now largely in place. It is, as Labour also evidently believes, too late to put BR together again. Even the flotation of Railtrack, which Labour has vaguely promised to take under public control, if not actually into public ownership, now looks assured. The privatisation of the 11,000-mile network may slip from May to June; but at a knockdown price, it will be in private hands by the General Election, and may already have received its first injection of much-needed private investment. Three more operating companies will by then be running trains, so that almost half of all rail passengers will be able to judge the difference.

The yardstick by which privatisation must be measured is still that it brings more money and wider expertise to revive the nation's railways. Sensibly, the Government has now overcome some of its prejudice against BR, so that a new generation of managers with radical ideas may be allowed to compete for the remaining franchises. Ideology never made the trains run on time; from today the test will be whether the trains to the West and the South-West are better run, more comfortable and fuller than before.

THE HEALING TOUCH

Medicine is widening its horizons with alternative ideas

More and more Britons are entrusting their minds and bodies to the practitioners of alternative medicine. According to recent estimates, one in three people has undergone acupuncture or hypnotherapy, made use of aromatherapy or herbal medicine, visited chiropractors or osteopaths. Four out of every five who do so are convinced they have received lasting benefit. Indeed, the use of alternative medicine is rising in Britain faster than in any other European country.

The kind of treatment offered has long been available on the Continent as an adjunct to orthodox medicine; yet for more than 40 years, it has been shunned by the medical establishment in Britain. The very word "alternative" has suggested something beyond the pale of scientifically-based medicine. The profession has stigmatised all such practices as untested and unproven, akin to faith healing and verging on quackery. The fact that the therapies offered have for years proved remarkably effective with a large number of people has been dismissed as irrelevant: opponents argue that any treatment which patients believe is doing them good will improve their response to conventional medicine.

The banning of alternative medicine from the lexicon of general practice was made absolute by the setting up of the National Health Service. The committees charged with financing the NHS needed to know what medicine could be deemed mainstream, and therefore eligible for funding, and what was fringe and best left to the pri-

vate sector. Britain, unlike France or Germany, had little tradition of "taking the waters" and such treatments — indeed almost all prophylactic cures — have been seen as a socially reprehensible pampering of the rich.

With the demise of the NHS monolith, attitudes are changing. Doctors who can control their own budgets are more open to innovation and to the traditions of other countries. Eastern medicine used only to excite scepticism: acupuncture was associated with nail beds and holy men, herbal medicine with folklore, while yoga was regarded as offering little that relaxation and regular exercise could not also supply.

All now command respect.

Perhaps the most intriguing recourse to alternative medicine is the growing, but still largely inexplicable, role of hypnotherapy. Some GPs now achieve extraordinary success using this powerful and unpredictable instrument; and the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis runs courses and conferences to compare clinical experience. They worry about the unmonitored use of hypnosis by mesmerists making extravagant claims; the ethical implications are challenging. Indeed all doctors would like to bring the treatment proposed by unregistered practitioners of alternative medicine within the remit of supervised health care. While they were identified with quackery, that was impossible. Now that doctors, patients and medical insurers are looking at this huge field more seriously, it is both possible and necessary.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Why civil servants require anonymity

From Mr M. G. Power

Sir, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told civil servants in a recent lecture at the Civil Service College (report, January 24) that they must be prepared to do more to support government policies.

It is the duty of ministers to explain policies. Explanations invite questions; questions invite argument. Many government policies are controversial, some bitterly opposed by the Opposition in Parliament. Follow Mr Heseltine's words to their logical conclusion and we shall see on TV a permanent secretary crossing swords with Miss Clare Short on the privatised state of British Rail.

He would probably do that very well, perhaps even more persuasively than ministers. But it would brand him as a political animal in the eyes of the public. Moreover, to be seen as the public protagonist of a policy which is anathema to one party might make it difficult to serve the new government after a general election.

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Irritation should not blind him to a far more present danger than warlike nationalism. Unless two conditions are met, EMU will fray the bonds of faith that underpin all democracies. There must be a genuine economic convergence, or the management of a single currency will produce nothing but dispute; and the peoples of Europe must themselves be convinced of EMU's positive benefits.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 3: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Rugby Union Match between England and Wales at Twickenham, Middlesex.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 3: The Princess Royal this morning departed the Falkland Islands for Ascension Island.

Her Royal Highness this evening arrived at Ascension Island, was received by the Administrator (Mr Roger Hulme) and attended a Reception at the Exiles Club.

The Princess Royal later departed Ascension Island for Royal Air Force Brize Norton.

SANDRINGHAM NORFOLK
February 4: Divine Service was held in West Newton Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend Canon George Hall preached the Sermon. Mr Frederick Waite was re-

cived by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of the Royal Victorian Order.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the finals of the Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons), the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Brize Norton from Ascension Island following the conclusion of Her Royal Highness's visit to the Falkland Islands.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs and Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Jack Aspinwall, MP, 63; Mr Robert Atkins, MP, 50; Sir Norman Blacklock, urologist, 68; Mr Jasper Clutterbuck, executive chairman, Morland and Company, 61; Major-General and Company, 61; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 66; Professor A.M. Neave, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 73; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 50; Canon Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 58; Sir Michael Simpson-Oriebar, diplomat, 64; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president, Royal College of Surgeons, 69; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 55; Sir Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 71.

Nature notes



The redwing

"lamb's tails" are swinging loose, but are still green; they will slowly turn yellow as the pollen develops in them. The pollen will be blown onto the female flowers, which are tiny red stars, just beginning to form on the same trees as the catkins.

Leaves are opening on the corky, grey elder twigs; it is a tree that thrives among humans, since it grows best on disturbed earth.

DJM

Memorial service

Lady Killick
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady John Killick was held on Saturday at St Peter's, Southborough, Kent. The Rev Clive Porthouse officiated and gave an address.

Sir Donald Murray and Sir Derek Day read the lessons. Mrs Helen Greenwood read *How to stay young* by Samuel Ullman.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 4: The Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the finals of the Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons), the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Brize Norton from Ascension Island following the conclusion of Her Royal Highness's visit to the Falkland Islands.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs and Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy were in attendance.

Luncheon

Herefordshire Lieutenant Colonel James Bolton presided at a luncheon given by the Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire on Saturday at Knebworth House to mark the tenth anniversary of the appointment of Sir Simon Bowes Lyon as Lord Lieutenant. Mrs Bowes Lyon, Lady Cobbold and Major-General Sir George Burns were among the guests.

School news

Clayesmore School
Clayesmore School celebrates its centenary this year. Founded by Revd. Alex Devine at Enfield in February 1896, it moved to Iwerne Minster, Dorset in 1931. In commemoration there will be a service of thanksgiving in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday, March 2, at 11.30am. This will feature the combined choirs and musicians of the Senior and Preparatory Schools; the Bishop of Salisbury will give an address. Old Clayesmortians and friends of the school are welcome to attend the service to contact the school to confirm details. (Telephone 01747 812015). Further events in the centenary calendar include the Centenary Ball on May 25 and a Summer Fair on June 23.

Tudor Hall School
Tudor Hall School (founded 1850) celebrates 50 years at Wykham Park this year. Old Tudorians, former staff and friends of the school who would like details of events to be held on Saturday, May 11, to which they are all welcome, should write, sending a stamped addressed envelope, to: Tudor Hall, Wykham Park, Barnbury, Oxon, OX16 9UR.

The Earl of Warwick
A memorial service for the Earl of Warwick will be held at St Mary's, Warwick, on Monday, February 19, at 12.15pm. Travel arrangements: a train departs Marylebone at 9.45am and arrives at Warwick at 11.30am. A coach will be waiting at Warwick station to take people to the church and return them after the service.

Leaves are opening on the corky, grey elder twigs; it is a tree that thrives among humans, since it grows best on disturbed earth.

DJM

In spite of the weather, cock greenfinches are beginning to quarrel with each other over the females in the flock, and pairs will soon be forming. Some cock birds are also making their long, slurring spring call. Song-thrushes fell silent during the coldest weather, but some are now singing again; the first chaffinches are also singing. Collared doves are making their triple too on roofs and television aerials.

But the countryside is still thronged with winter visitors from the sub-Arctic. Waxwings have now spread over the whole of the British Isles, and have been observed in Dublin town centre. Redwings are very common at present, and are feeding on the last remaining hawthorn berries: they are like song-thrushes, but when they fly they show a red flash under their wings. Hazel catkins, or

"lamb's tails" are swinging loose, but are still green; they will slowly turn yellow as the pollen develops in them. The pollen will be blown onto the female flowers, which are tiny red stars, just beginning to form on the same trees as the catkins.

Leaves are opening on the corky, grey elder twigs; it is a tree that thrives among humans, since it grows best on disturbed earth.

DJM

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS
GOODMAN - Edward of Monksilver, Italy. Founder of The Action Society, and former Vice-Chairman of the Bowes Trust. Died February 2nd aged 81. Buried by members of the Monksilver Club. Private.

FRANKS - On 2nd February, to Charles, Eliza, Carol, a daughter, Eliza Harris, and Tony, a son, Barbara Theo, a brother for Dominic and a son, a brother for Michael.

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OBITUARIES

Gene Kelly, dancer, choreographer and film actor, died in Los Angeles on February 2 aged 83. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 23, 1912.

THE career of Gene Kelly, which spanned four decades, was a classic American success story, with virtually no setbacks. Almost at once he established himself as a dancer without rival on screen apart from the perennial Fred Astaire, and his later work extended itself to choreography and film direction with equal success. Two, at least, of the films he starred in, choreographed and directed, *On The Town* (1949) and *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), are among the unquestioned classics of the cinema.

Yet, in spite of these triumphs it often seemed that Kelly was not a natural dancer in the way Astaire was. There was always an awareness of the pains he was taking, the sheer hard work of brain and body which went into his performances. But this sense of physicality, of constant struggle, was an important and perhaps the most personal element of his style. It was all of a piece with the extrovert, insistently masculine quality of his dancing. It is not coincidental that one of his later television specials was called *Dancing: A Man's Game*. It was possible to find Kelly's screen personality antipathetic, but not to deny him the major credit for some of the American cinema's finest films and some of its most exciting musical moments.

Gene Curran Kelly was born of Irish parents. Sent by his mother to dance school from the age of seven, he graduated early from being taught to teaching himself, and by his early twenties was running two dance schools. In 1938 he decided to try his luck on Broadway, and soon got a part as a specialty dancer in the Cole Porter musical *Leave It to Me*. From that he went on to ever bigger roles in various musical shows, and worked as dance director on several.

He first made a big impression in 1939 playing the role of Harry the Hoofer in the first production of Sartor's *The Time of Your Life*, and the following year became unmistakably a star when he played the title role in the Rodgers and Hart musical *Pal Joey*, in which he was required to sing, dance and act as the unscrupulous gigolo and would-be owner of a night club. It was his enormous success in this show which got him



With Debbie Reynolds in *Singin' in the Rain*

noticed by Hollywood, though curiously enough he was never called upon in Hollywood to play anything so tough and cynical. There his screen persona was to develop into something more wholesome, athletic and unmistakably all-American.

He went out to Hollywood under contract to David O. Selznick, but Selznick had no suitable role for him, and his first film was a loan-out to MGM. It was a musical, *For Me and My Gal* (1942), and in it he had a starring role, opposite Judy Garland.

The teaming (repeated on subsequent occasions) was a success, the film was a success, and MGM liked their new star so much they bought up his contract. The connection was to be a long and happy one, since Kelly stayed at the same studio for the next

15 years and made 27 films for it during that time, including nearly all of his classics.

Though through the years Gene Kelly did from time to time play non-singing, non-dancing roles in straight dramas, he and everybody else felt that his special talents lay in the musical area. He began as a dancer, but already on stage he had experience as a director and choreographer, and before long he began to fulfil these functions in the cinema too.

He began to choreograph his own numbers with *Thousands Cheer* (1942), the most memorable part of which was a dance in which he used a mop as his partner. In *Cover Girl*, made the next year on loan to Columbia, he starred opposite Rita

Hayworth and had the opportunity to develop more fully his qualities as a performer and choreographer. The film contains one of his first anthology pieces, the "alter ego" dance in which he dances with himself in double-exposure.

Experimentation of this kind with the actual materials of the medium was to remain a continuing preoccupation with Kelly. The form to which he was to return most frequently first appears in *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), which features a sequence in which he dances in a cartoon framework, matching his actions with those of animated characters. He was to return to this not, finally, very satisfactorily in *Invitation to the Dance* (1952-56) and his later television version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Other films of these years which remain memorable include *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), in which for the first time he danced with Fred Astaire; *The Pirate* (1948), a musical by Cole Porter in which he was happily reunited with Judy Garland, and *Living in a Big Way* (1947), a curious comedy-drama by Gregory La Cava into which were interpolated a couple of excellent numbers devised by Kelly and his regular collaborator Stanley Donen.

These two evidently wanted even more control over the films they worked on, and in *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949) they were given it when they originated the story and collaborated on the direction, under the practised eye of Busby Berkeley. This breezy musical of life in a baseball team, with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin as the three male principals, was obviously a sort of sketch for the following year's *On The Town*, in which Kelly and Donen for the first time received full directorial credit; it was perhaps the most innovative single film in the history of the musical.

What was really original about *On The Town* was its complete freedom of form, with song, dance and dramatic action merging almost imperceptibly into one another, each used according to the best interest of the moment. Its refreshing use of actual locations let fresh air into the studio conventions usual at that time for the musical. If anything, the formula was improved upon in the next Kelly-Donen collaboration, *Singin' in the Rain*, a loving recreation of Hollywood in a period of transition with the coming of sound, which permitted Kelly himself to give one of his

most charming performances and create one of his most magical moments in his solo version of the title number.

A third Kelly-Donen collaboration, *It's Always Fair Weather*, followed, less successfully, in 1953, but meanwhile Kelly had branched out on his own to make *Invitation to the Dance* (1956), a feature film consisting entirely of dance episodes. This was his most cherished and personal concept but unfortunately for the most part it showed up rather cruelly the limitations of his range as a choreographer. This had been much better served in *An American in Paris* (1951), one of the most popular among his films, in which he worked as star and choreographer with Vincente Minnelli as director. It climaxed in the famous ballet sequence which remains one of the screen's most ambitious attempts to come to terms directly with the dance.

After the end of his contract with MGM in *Les Girls* (1957) Kelly turned increasingly to straight acting, in films like *Inherit the Wind* (1960), in which he played a cynical journalist based on H. L. Mencken, and to directing films in which he himself did not appear, most spectacularly *Hello Dolly!* in 1969. He also returned to the theatre, staging among other shows the Rodgers and Hammerstein *Flower Drum Song* and the spectacular *Clownaround*.

In 1974 he returned to his old home, MGM, as co-narrator of *That's Entertainment*, a compilation of great numbers from old MGM musicals. There was a sequel, directed by Kelly, *That's Entertainment II* (1976), introduced by him and Fred Astaire. Kelly also participated in a third dose of the same medicine, *That's Entertainment III* (1994), directed by Bud Friedgen and Michael J. Sheridan. Cyd Charisse, Lena Horne, Debbie Reynolds and Mickey Rooney were among the stars of Hollywood's past featured on that occasion, but not Fred Astaire, who had died in 1987.

Gene Kelly was three times married. His first marriage, in 1940, to the actress Betsy Blair ended in divorce in 1957. His second wife, a dance assistant, Jeanne Coyne, died in 1973. After her death Kelly raised their children. In 1990 he married the writer Patricia Ward and is survived by her and by the daughter of his first marriage and the son and daughter of his second.

BRODRICK HALDANE



The Queen Mother, a great admirer of Haldane's work, once rebuked her detective for impeding his view of her at a public function. "Mr Haldane is a friend of mine," said Her Majesty firmly. "Now, Brodrick, where would you like me to stand?" The Duchess of Windsor was equally obliging, patiently holding Haldane's flashbulbs at one party, while the late Aga Khan gave him when those same flashbulbs exploded, showering him with fine glass.

In 1941, while serving with the Royal Artillery at Chatham — where he read *Vogue* between bomb attacks and

made a rockery around the gun emplacements — his father died and was succeeded by 27th Laird of Gleneglasses by Brodrick's elder brother, Alex, a hero of Dunkirk. Thereafter, for almost 50 years, he was styled Younger of Gleneglasses, until 1990, when his brother appointed his cousin, Martin Haldane — who, unlike Brodrick, was married with children — as his heir. It was Martin who succeeded as 28th Laird of Gleneglasses in 1994 on the death of Alex.

A handsome man, somewhat vain about his appearance, Haldane stood on his head for five minutes every

morning to assist his hair growth, and underwent a facelift at 60 to remove lines from around his mouth.

His brother did not entirely approve, when, in 1976, he opened his ornate Georgian flat in Edinburgh to the public. There, he dispensed tea and gave a personal guided tour of such Haldane heirlooms as the wheelchair used by his novelist ancestor, Sir Walter Scott.

In 1992, at the age of 79, he made an unexpected return to acting, appearing as the Judge's Clerk in the Scottish television drama series, *The Advocates*.

In 1993, he completed his autobiography with the help of the Scottish writer Roddy Martine. In his final interview, published last month, he said: "I don't care what you say about me, as long as you make it amusing."

He never married and is survived by his cousin Martin, the 28th Laird of Gleneglasses.

By then, he had been long recognised as one of the most celebrated photographers in the world. Karsh of Ottawa called him "the greatest living British photographer" and both Lord Snowdon and Lord Lichfield publicly acknowledged their debt to his early help and influence.

Though suffering from cancer, Haldane travelled to Romania in April last year, and was received at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest by President Ion Iliescu, of whom he took his last important photographs. The visit displeased ex-King Michael of Romania, whose grandmother, Queen Marie, had known Haldane in his youth.

He was a great gossip; there was little of social consequence that was not first discussed in his drawing room before it became public. Never a snob, he ignored all social distinctions. His two maids and his former window cleaner were among his closest friends. His charm and *savoir faire* disguised a strong character.

Attempts to persuade him to abandon Margaret Duchess of Argyll, after the scandal of the late duke's divorce action against her, were resolutely rebuffed, and she remained a welcome guest in his home until her death.

During the last weeks of his life, he completed his autobiography with the help of the Scottish writer Roddy Martine. In his final interview, published last month, he said: "I don't care what you say about me, as long as you make it amusing."

He never married and is

survived by his cousin Martin, the 28th Laird of Gleneglasses.

Opposition in the Commons ... Mrs Thatcher, surrounded by her backbench promoters last night, refused to assume the final victory that would make her the first woman prime minister in British history. She simply said that she would fight the second ballot and then the third ballot. She showed how steady she can be and noted the importance of her first ballot lead, but she added that the fight had not yet ended.

There is no doubt that Mr Whitehead or Mrs

Thatcher, if elected leader, would immediately call him on the front bench to play a full part

MAJOR-GENERAL REYNELL TAYLOR



Major-General Reynell Taylor, CB, Chief of Staff, HQ British Army of the Rhine, 1980-84, died from heart failure on January 22 aged 67. He was born on April 5, 1928.

REYNELL TAYLOR was the fifth generation of military officers in his family, three of whom became generals. His first military bearing, a 10th Hussar, was on Wellington's staff at Waterloo, and he is reputed to have almost caused the loss of the battle. He was sent to guide the Prussians in their attack on Napoleon's flank, but he lost his way, causing the near fatal delay to Blücher's intervention.

Another forebear, Colonel William Morris, led the 17th Lancers at Balaklava.

Walter Reynell Taylor, the son of Colonel Richard Reynell Taylor of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was educated at Wellington College, where he showed himself to be an extrovert, an able leader with a good brain, and a first-class athlete. He was head of school, head of house, captain of rugby and the Victor Ludorum in athletics. After attending one of the earliest postwar courses at Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, which he joined at Sabratoun in Tripoli in 1948.

The promise which he had shown at Wellington as a leader and games player was confirmed as a junior regimental officer with the addition of being a first-class horseman and polo player. He had a natural talent for leading his troopers, who enjoyed being under his command, and he became one of the founder members of the Royal Armoured Corps' Junior Leaders Regiment at Bovington.

He started his staff career in 1957 as a student at the Staff College, Camberley, to which, after a two-year exchange appointment in Canada, he was brought back as a Staff College instructor. As the GS2 (Coord) he did much of the planning for the re-introduction of battlefield tours.

Promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1967, he went out to Singapore as a member of the Defence Planning Staff. The confrontation with Indonesia had just ended, and he was faced instead with the depressing business of planning the Wilson Government's withdrawal from the Far East. Luckily his tour was cut short by his being given command of his regiment in Germany in 1969; he returned to the Staff College as a full colonel two years later.

He was now moving up into the policymaking reaches of the Army. He had proved himself a man of high principles who worked tirelessly and optimistically, making many friends from all walks of life.

Promoted brigadier in 1972, he

had a successful command of the 12th Mechanised Brigade at Osnabrück where his abilities and relaxed approach were reflected in a colleague's remark, "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being in his brigade; he made it fun."

He spent 1975 at the Royal College of Defence Studies in Belgrave Square from which he entered the Ministry of Defence for the first time in the key appointment of Brigadier General Staff, Military Operations. It was a depressing period to serve in Whitehall; defence was suffering from financial cuts in the last days of the Callaghan Labour Government before Margaret Thatcher began to restore some of the damage.

He escaped from Whitehall

on promotion to major-general in 1978 when he was appointed Commander British Troops, Cyprus, and administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas. This was a job he enjoyed and which came naturally to him. His outstanding negotiating skills, enthusiasm and determination helped to re-establish Anglo-Cypriot relations that had been so soured by the Turkish invasion of the island, which many Greek Cypriots accused Britain of failing to pre-empt. He was universally liked, and before he left in 1980 he acted as British Military Representative on the combined US/UK task force for the support of the Western nations in Beirut. He was appointed CB in 1981 for his services in Cyprus.

His last appointment in the Army was as Chief of Staff in HQ British Army of the Rhine. He retired in 1984 and went back to Cyprus where he had made many friends and contacts involved in Middle Eastern affairs. There he became Director of the Middle East Management Training Centre in Nicosia.

On his return to England in 1987, he bought a farm in Somerset. He took up a consultancy in the concrete industry, and latterly became marketing director of EST, the concrete plant specialists. He investigated and won approval from the Ministry of Defence for a joint venture scheme for the manufacture of the firm's range of concrete batching plants and for the transfer of technology to Saudi Arabia under the al-Yamamah economic offset programme. He spent a considerable time in the Gulf states promoting the project, and was well respected for his knowledge and diplomacy. He was still involved with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states at the time of his sudden death.

He married Doreen Myrtle Dodge in 1954. They had a son, who joined his father's regiment, and a daughter. His second wife, whom he married in 1982, was Rosemary Gardner (nee Breed). They had one son. Both his families survive him.

Church news

Latest appointments include:

The Rev Jeremy Allcock, Curate-in-charge, St Luke, Walthamstow; to be Vicar, East Ham, St Paul (Cheshunt).

The Rev Philip Ashdown, Assistant Curate, Houghton-le-Spring (Durham); to be Assistant Curate, Stockton-on-Tees (Durham), and Chaplain in University College, Stockton (York).

The Rev Joy Bradley, Assistant Curate, Wadsley, Sheffield; to be Assistant Curate, Mosborough (Sheffield).

The Rev Richard Brand, Curate, St John the Baptist, Croydon (Croydon); to be Vicar, St George, St John and Little Henry, and Little Wickham, St Paul (Twickenham); to be Assistant Rural Dean of Hinchinbrooke (Cheshunt).

The Rev Bryan Carew, Rector, Great and Little Henry, and Little Wickham, St Paul (Twickenham); to be Assistant Rural Dean of Hinchinbrooke (Cheshunt).

The Rev Jane Clay, Assistant

Priest, Lupset St George; to be part-time Chaplain at New Hall Prison and Young Offenders Unit, Flockton, Wakefield (Wakefield).

The Rev Dr Mark Dorset, Curate, Yardley, St Edmund (Birmingham); to be Chaplain to The King's School, Worcester, and Minor Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

The Rev Roger Gilbert, Rector, Falmouth, an Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral, and Rural Dean of Carmarthenshire South (Truro); to be a Chaplain to The Queen.

In 1941, while serving with the Royal Artillery at Chatham — where he read *Vogue* between bomb attacks and

made a rockery around the gun emplacements — his father died and was succeeded by 27th Laird of Gleneglasses by Brodrick's elder brother, Alex, a hero of Dunkirk. Thereafter, for almost 50 years, he was styled Younger of Gleneglasses, until 1990, when his brother appointed his cousin, Martin Haldane — who, unlike Brodrick, was married with children — as his heir. It was Martin who succeeded as 28th Laird of Gleneglasses in 1994 on the death of Alex.

A handsome man, somewhat vain about his appearance, Haldane stood on his head for five minutes every

MR HEATH STEPS DOWN AFTER 11-VOTE DEFEAT BY MRS THATCHER

By David Wood
Political Editor

The contest for the Conservative Party leadership now lies between Mrs Thatcher and Mr William Whitelaw, the Conservative Party chairman. After Mr Heath had withdrawn last night under the blow of a defeat by Mrs Thatcher on the first ballot, Mr Whitelaw came under strong pressure from a group of backbenchers to declare his candidature for the second ballot ...

Like many other Conservatives, Mr Whitelaw is conscious of the personal tragedy that has overwhelmed Mr Heath. It would be a callous politician who failed to recognise it. Mr Heath continues nominally as Opposition leader until the new leader has emerged on the second or third ballot, but in fact he has asked Mr Robert Carr, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, to undertake his duties in the House. He is retreating into the background, badly hurt but not finished.

There is no doubt that Mr Whitelaw or Mrs

Thatcher, if elected leader, would immediately call him on the front bench to play a full part

in the revival of the Conservative Party and the

ON THIS DAY

